

**Column 8**

**British worker wins £18 million in lottery**

LONDON (AP) — A woman, 40, who had been working in a shop for 15 years, won the £18 million prize in the Christmas Lottery. She was one of the 15 million people who bought a ticket for the £10 Christmas Lottery. The woman, who was not named, was one of the 15 million people who bought a ticket for the £10 Christmas Lottery. She was one of the 15 million people who bought a ticket for the £10 Christmas Lottery.

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# 7 ancient sarcophagi found near motorway

CAIRO (AFP) — Seven ancient sarcophagi have been discovered only a few metres from a motorway slicing past the pyramids, the head of Egypt's Department of Antiquities announced Wednesday. The sarcophagi were found in a tomb carved in the rock. One contained a scroll belonging to a pharaoh named Iyn Shams, along with a large quantity of porcelain pots and offerings. A final decision on whether to continue the construction of the motorway will be taken by the end of this week, officials said Monday. President Hosni Mubarak last month ordered a halt to construction work on the road, which will pass within 2.5 kilometres of the Sphinx and the three pyramids at Giza, just outside Cairo. Said Zulfikar, an expert from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), has described the motorway as illegal and in violation of both Egyptian and international law on the protection of the world's heritage.

# Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

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## King urges umma to unite, shun violence, backwardness 'Jordan will not accept any sovereignty over Jerusalem except that of God'

CASABLANCA (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday told Islamic leaders at the Casablanca Summit that he was pained to see that the Islamic leaders failed to fulfil the aspirations of the Muslim nation. He said that the Muslim peoples were attaching great hopes on the summit to unify their ranks and help them confront the challenges facing the umma. The King said he wished the conference would lead to attaining solidarity among the Muslim countries and ending their differences. Reminding his fellow leaders that the world was witnessing the formation of blocs among nations which had been in conflict in the past, the King said that Islamic countries should avert disunity and join forces to confront the requirements of the modern age. He said the sweeping changes in the world around us could not wait for the desperate, the fearful or the hesitant. The King said that the Islamic faith provided real power for the Muslims to embark on meaningful action that would fulfil the Islamic countries' legitimate aspirations. Urging Muslims to resort to dialogue and adopt scientific approaches to solving

problems, the King said that that could help various nations to reach understanding and open new avenues for progress, justice and democracy. In outlining Jordan's position on the peace process, King Hussein said that all the Muslim leaders were aware of the circumstances that surrounded the Arab-Israeli conflict which lasted for decades and caused so much suffering to all parties. He said the time had come for conflicting parties to come to an understanding to reach a just and durable peace based on U.N. resolutions 242 and 338. "On this basis, we convened the Madrid conference as a beginning to the peace process and together with the rest of the Arab parties we moved ahead towards attaining a just peace," he added. He said that the Palestinians had reached agreement in Oslo and before that the King had signed a peace treaty with Israel. "It was Egypt which originally led the Arab World into conflict with Israel," he said. He said Jordan signed with Israel a peace treaty which had restored to the country its territory, water and security, and paved the way for a comprehensive peace. Referring to the question



His Majesty King Hussein waves to the press as he arrives at the royal palace in Casablanca Wednesday for the second day of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference summit.

King Hussein later left Casablanca leaving Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali to head the Jordanian delegation (AFP photo)

## House cables full support for King

AMMAN (Petra) — The Lower House of Parliament Wednesday voiced its absolute support for His Majesty King Hussein's efforts aimed at unifying the Arab World and restoring Arab rights. The House said in a cable signed by Speaker Saad Hayel Sroor that "The Jordanian people follow up with deep pride your endeavours

at the Casablanca Islamic summit which aim at reestablishing solidarity among Arab and Muslim countries. "The Lower House backs Your Majesty's relentless effort aimed at ending the conflicts in Bosnia and Afghanistan as well as your relentless efforts to ensure continued care and protection

to the holy places of Jerusalem and preserve its Arab and Islamic identity," the statement added. The Lower House also sent another cable to King Hassan II of Morocco, voicing support for the Islamic conference and demanding that Jordan retain its role as custodian of the Islamic shrines in

the Holy City of Jerusalem until the final status of the city has been determined. Lauding King Hassan's role at the Islamic conference, the House's statement said that the House was looking forward to the conference supporting Jordan's endeavours to ensure its continued trusteeship of the holy shrines.

## Bosnia dominates summit

CASABLANCA, Morocco (AFP) — Islamic leaders held talks here Wednesday on forging a common stand over Bosnia as the Muslim contact group agreed to meet its Western counterpart in Geneva, a Moroccan official said. The Islamic contact group was also to ask leaders at the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) summit to toughen their planned statement on Bosnia, Taieb Fassi-Fihri, Morocco's secretary of state for foreign affairs said. Tunisia meanwhile planned to urge the summit meeting to adopt a legal and binding document on fighting Islamic militancy. The contact group of foreign affairs ministers and experts from seven Islamic countries has also decided to "respond favourably" to a German government request to meet with their Western counterpart, Mr. Fassi-Fihri said. Such a meeting will take place "as soon as possible" in Geneva among ambassadors to prepare for a meeting at ministerial level, he added. The Western group is composed of Germany, the United States, France, Britain and Russia, and the Islamic group is made up of Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Iran, Malaysia, Pakistan, Senegal and Turkey.

Such a meeting is likely to reveal differences between the Muslims and the Western contact group over French and U.S. proposals to offer the Bosnian Serbs the possibility of a confederation with Serbia in exchange for a territorial settlement in Bosnia-Herzegovina. The Islamic countries are also likely to press the Western contact group to strengthen peace-keeping operations. The Bosnia contact group also "discussed a draft statement" to be submitted to the summit Wednesday and designed to "strengthen the resolution" adopted in preparatory talks for the summit, Mr. Fassi-Fihri said. The resolution advocates increasing the size of the 24,000-strong U.N. Protection Force, more NATO strikes on Serb positions, and an end to the arms embargo. Malaysia announced from Kuala Lumpur it would send 377 more soldiers to beef up its 1,633-member team already serving with the U.N. force in Bosnia, even as the United Nations was planning to withdraw from the war-torn country. The summit was also expected to adopt an unprecedented "code of conduct" on terrorism. The plan calls for OIC members to refuse to finance

## PLO rejects Israeli election offer

CAIRO (AP) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Wednesday insisted that Israeli troops pull out of Palestinian cities and towns on the West Bank to make way for self-rule elections, rejecting an offer for a partial withdrawal. The disagreement threatened implementation of the autonomy agreement, which Israel appears to want to slow down following attacks by militants bent on wrecking the peace process. However, PLO officials decried the dialogue had foundered. "There is no impasse, no deadlock in the negotiations. There are some disagreements," said the PLO planning minister, Nabil Shaath. Israel and the PLO agreed in their September 1993 self-rule accord that Israeli troops would withdraw from urban centres in the West Bank before elections for a self-governing Palestinian assembly.

## Minister briefs Parliament: Food subsidies continue, wheat alone at JD 40 million

AMMAN (Petra) — The government will continue to subsidise basic food commodities and has budgeted JD 40 million as this year's subsidy of bread alone, Minister of Supply Adel Qudah said Wednesday. To a speech before the Lower House of Parliament outlining the main features of the supply policy, Mr. Qudah said that the government continues to subsidise the prices of wheat, flour, sugar, rice, dried milk, frozen chicken and olive oil. He said that all these commodities were imported at international prices and sold to the people for much lower prices, with the treasury covering the difference in price. He said that subsidy policy would continue despite the fluctuation of prices in international markets. He added, however, that basic subsidised commodities were only sold to families whose annual income is less than JD 6,000 a year. The minister said during this year the price of a tonne of wheat rose at the international market from \$119 to \$175, sugar from \$340 to

\$462, rice from \$280 to \$418 and dried milk from \$23 a carton to \$35. He said that in addition to this rises the transport of each tonne of these commodities cost \$20. Bread, the minister said, is being sold at half cost. He said the government will continue to issue food coupons that would enable limited income groups to purchase basic staples at reduced prices and was providing animal feed to farmers at cost price. The minister presented the House with figures that show a clear rise in the cost of living over the past 11 months. According to the figures, the cost of living index registered 110.3 points last month, compared to 104.6 points at the end of 1993. He said that cost of food commodities rose to 116.7 points last month, up from 102.6 points at the end of 1993. The commodities include meat, poultry, fish, dairy products, eggs, cooking oil, fruits, vegetables, dry legumes, nuts, sugar, tea, refreshments and tobacco, Mr. Qudah said.

Prices of vegetables and fruits, the minister noted, registered a high rise this year because of severe weather conditions that adversely affected crops and the opening of new markets before Jordanian products. Coffee prices, he said, rose by 50 per cent last December due to the hikes at the international market, but tea prices fell noticeably. The increase in the prices of clothes, shoes and housing, he said, remained the same. Violations of food standards and quality controls were on the rise, he said. Ministry inspection teams have recorded 14,273 violations by merchants during 1993, up from 9,617 in 1992 and 13,000 violations since the start of 1994. The violations are fined by courts and issued warnings by the ministry which has set up several offices for receiving public complaints and grievances, the minister added. Following the minister's address, the House referred his statement to a special committee to scrutinise all its details and report to the House for a final debate.

## Tal denies charges that government manipulating judiciary

By Natasha Bukhari  
Special to the Jordan Times  
AMMAN — The Minister of Justice, Hisham Tal, has dismissed as "baseless" reports of government intervention in the independence of the judiciary, saying there were people in the Kingdom who wanted to disparage him and undermine the role of the judicial system. The minister denied charges that the government intended to interfere with the work of the judiciary through instigating the recent wave of resignations and appointments, and accused certain "parties" of fomenting those accusations against him. Mr. Tal did not say who those "parties" were, but categorised them into two groups: Those who were negatively affected by reform measures adopted by the Higher Judicial Council, and others who abuse

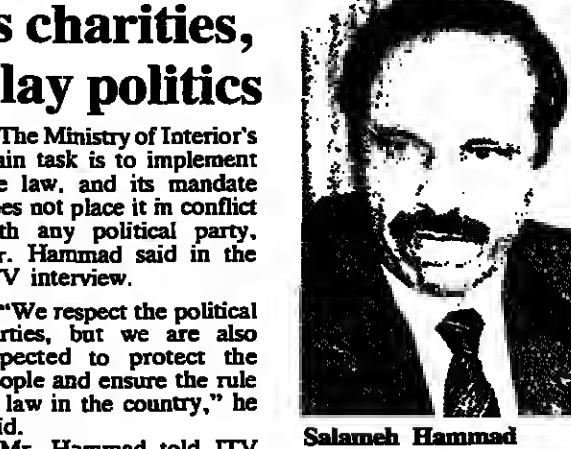
democracy and threaten the state's stability and security through using different fora like "mosques, newspapers and political parties." "None of them is or will be allowed to implicate the judiciary as a cover for their destructive deeds," Mr. Tal told the Jordan Times in an interview, adding that although the Kingdom's judicial system is not perfect, its integrity and independence are above reproach and suspicion. According to widely circulating reports, the government is said to have interfered in a number of reshuffles and appointments of members of the Judicial Council, which has the mandate to appoint, promote and retire judges. The delay of several cases to be represented before the court because of their sensitivity and in order to avoid public intrigue and

## Minister warns charities, unions not to play politics

AMMAN (J.T.) — The minister of interior, Salameh Hammad, Wednesday warned charitable organisations and professional unions not to intervene in politics. In an interview with Jordan Television, Mr. Hammad said certain groups registered with different ministries under cultural or charitable organisations, sometimes deal with politics. This, he said, is prohibited by law and the ministry has the right to stop it. The minister urged professional and trade unions to direct their attention to their own professional issues and reminded them that they are not allowed by law to practise political activity. Mr. Hammad denied that any tension existed between his ministry and the political parties but conceded that there were differences on political issues.

## Minister warns charities, unions not to play politics

The Ministry of Interior's main task is to implement the law, and its mandate does not place it in conflict with any political party, Mr. Hammad said in the JTV interview. "We respect the political parties, but we are also expected to protect the people and ensure the rule of law in the country," he said. Mr. Hammad told JTV that he believed differences in views with the political parties — provided they are constructive — are bound to enrich the process of democracy and that he fully supported that line of thinking. He said he did not approve of opposition parties' intention to march in protest to peace with Israel because he was keen on preventing hostile elements from infiltrating the marchers and causing damage to property.



Salameh Hammad But the minister added that he had allowed the political parties to stage sit-ins at the Prime Ministry and at the political parties' headquarters to express their opposition to the opening of the Israeli mission. Stressing that the law stipulates that no political activities can be conducted at schools, mosques and official institutions, the minister said that the parties have the right to organise rallies in public places like cinemas and others.

## Saleh pardons southern leaders

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh announced an amnesty Wednesday for 16 southern breakaway leaders who fled the country after their defeat in the May-July civil war. "We have pardoned all those who were involved in the war. We even pardon the 16 fugitives who fled abroad. Let them return home," Mr. Saleh told the Kuwaiti daily Al-Siyassa. "We shall not call them to account, because the Yemeni people want to heal their wounds." Mr. Saleh, a northerner, did not say when he would sign the amnesty decree. He announced a pardon on May 24 and confirmed it after northern forces won the war, but it excluded former vice-president Ali Salem Al-Beidh and fifteen other southern leaders. Sanaa said the 16 should be tried for "war crimes." Mr. Beidh, who proclaimed a southern breakaway Yemeni Democratic Republic on May 21, fled to neighbouring Oman after the fall of his southern stronghold, the port city of Aden, on July 7. Mr. Saleh also told Al-Siyassa that almost 4,000 northern Yemenis were killed and 12,000 wounded in the civil war.

## Israel runs bus service to Jordan

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Jordan has agreed to let Israel run daily bus services to link Haifa and Tel Aviv with Amman and Eilat with Aqaba, a transport ministry spokesman said Wednesday. The agreement in principle was reached at negotiations by the Dead Sea, spokesman Eli Danone said. He could not say when the service would start. Israel and Jordan, who signed a peace treaty on Dec. 24, have recently opened their borders to tourists.

## Hotels to serve kosher food

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Three Jordanian hotels have agreed to serve kosher food to attract religious Jews following the signing of a peace treaty with Israel, a travel agency said Wednesday. Kitchens at the hotels in Amman, Petra and Aqaba will observe Jewish dietary laws, said Shai Ogev, director of the Shai Bar-Ilan agency which specialises in tours for orthodox Jews. Some 500 observant Jews from Israel are due to visit Jordan in the coming months following the hotel agreement. Israel and Jordan opened embassies last Sunday following the Oct. 26 peace treaty.

## U.N. sends food convoy to Bihaq

ZAGREB (R) — The main U.N. relief agency sent off a 10-truck aid convoy on Wednesday for the Serb-besieged Bosnian enclave of Bihaq where people are reported to be desperately short of food. "We have received clearances from the Serbs and the convoy carrying 106 metric tonnes of food left Zagreb in the afternoon," said spokeswoman Aleksandra Lisinski of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees' office.

## U.S. gunman held by police

NEW YORK (R) — An armed man who was holding hostages at the state university of New York in Albany on Wednesday has been arrested by police, CBS radio reported. The report said at least one person was shot, but there were no further details. About 40 students had been held in the basement of a lecture hall from about 9.50 a.m., police said.

## Civilian dies in Bihaq shelling

ZAGREB (AFP) — A civilian died and another was injured on Wednesday when a shell hit the town of Bihaq in northwestern Bosnia-Herzegovina, a United Nations official said. UN Protection Force (UNPROFOR) spokeswoman Claire Grimes said a 120 mm artillery shell hit the mainly Muslim town, which is besieged by Bosnian Serb forces and lies within a UN-designated "safe area." A Bangladeshi soldier died Tuesday after a rocket attack on an armoured vehicle in the north of the Bihaq enclave. Bangladeshi Prime Minister Khaleda Zia on Wednesday called on the United Nations to take action to prevent similar attacks in the future.

## ICRC convoy arrives in Kabul

KABUL (AFP) — A 10-truck convoy from the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) arrived here Wednesday with 120 tonnes of food for the residents of the embattled Afghan capital. The supplies, which included wheat flour and edible oil, will be distributed in areas controlled by Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani and the opposition Hezb-i-Islami faction of Gulabuddin Hekmatyar. ICRC officials said an ICRC convoy of six trucks brought medicines to Kabul earlier this month and an ICRC official said there were plans to send more relief convoys.



## 'No single cause found for Gulf war syndrome'

WASHINGTON (AFP) — A clinical study of more than 1,000 veterans suffering from so-called Gulf war syndrome has uncovered no single cause to explain the broad array of symptoms they complain of, the Pentagon said late Monday.

No connection was found in the Department of Defence study between the ailments and exposure to chemical or biological weapons, said Stephen Joseph, assistant secretary of defence for health affairs.

According to Mr. Joseph, 85 per cent of the cases resulted in multiple diagnoses for the symptoms reported — most often fatigue, joint pains, headache, memory loss, disturbed sleep, poor concentration, skin rashes, and muscle pain and depression.

"If you look at the broad range of diagnoses that we find and what we understand of the multiple causes of those multiple diagnoses, we don't find any magic bullet, any indication of a single agent or a single causality that would cover that broad spectrum," said Joseph.

In 15 per cent of the cases, no clear diagnosis was reached and those patients will be referred to two specialised medical centres for

further testing, said Mr. Joseph.

In theory a single cause may still be found among those cases but so far the evidence "points very strongly away from a single diagnosis or disease," he said.

"We don't see anything in terms of the clustering of the symptoms, partial diagnoses, other clues," he said at a news conference. "To date we see no correlations across that group, but that's what we're looking for in the specialised care centres."

Mr. Joseph said no correlation had been found between the unexplained ailments and either military units or geographical locations.

An army computer programme is in the works that should some day be able to locate all 700,000 servicemen by unit and locations on any given day, but it has yet to be completed, he noted.

The 1,019 patients in the study were among 11,000 who have contacted a Defence Department hotline. Although Mr. Joseph described the study's findings as preliminary, he said they were based on fairly complete results on the first thousand.

A similar study of 17,000 patients who signed up with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) turned up similar results, said Robert Roswell, who's coordinating government action on the Gulf syndrome.

Of those, 20 per cent reported symptoms for which there was no clear diagnosis,

he said.

"It seems certain, based on the analysis of information in this registry we're dealing with multiple causes giving rise to unexplained illnesses, as opposed to a single agent," said Mr. Roswell, chief of staff of the Birmingham, Alabama Veterans Administration Medical Centre.

Pentagon and the VA registries now hold the names of about 45,000 Gulf veterans complaining of possible Gulf war syndrome ailments.

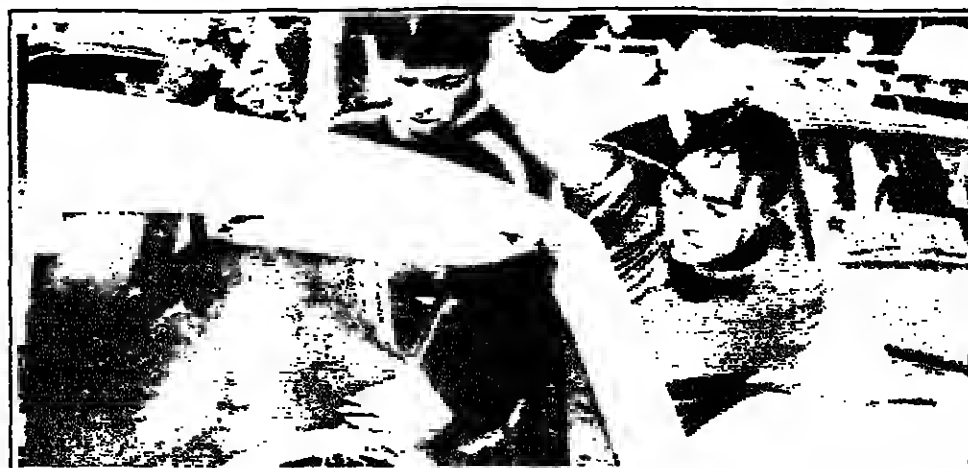
Mr. Joseph said the vast majority of the patients whose ailments have been diagnosed were responding to medical treatment.

The Pentagon has established specialised medical centres in Washington and San Antonio, Texas to continue treatment and testing of Gulf war veterans with unexplained ailments, Mr. Joseph said.

"Further research will certainly be needed to identify all the potential factors that have contributed to the current health problems of Persian Gulf veterans," said Mr. Roswell.

Large epidemiological studies will be conducted early next year to compare the incidence of unexplained illnesses among the Gulf veterans to the general population, he said.

The VA has established three national environmental hazard research centres to investigate a wide variety of factors that might have affected the health of the veterans.



RAGE OF HAMAS: A Hamas activist Wednesday stabs an Israeli soldier begging for mercy after he lost his way in the West Bank town of Ramallah and drove into a demonstration by Islamic fundamentalists. The Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas celebrated the seventh anniversary of its foundation. The soldier, who was in uniform, suffered "moderate" wounds and was taken to hospital (AFP photo)

## 'Israeli-run jail like Nazi camps'

BEIRUT (R) — A prison run under Israeli supervision on South Lebanon is similar to Nazi death camps, the head of France's human rights commission said Tuesday.

"Kham detention centre is a death camp similar to the Nazi camps during World War II," monique Picard Weyl told reporters in Beirut.

"Many (captive) are blind, lose limbs, ears and eyes and are sick," Ms. Weyl said, citing reports by a committee of former prisoners.

About 250 Lebanese and Palestinian prisoners are held in Kham by the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia but ultimate control is with Israel, which has 1,000 troops in South Lebanon.

Ms. Weyl said the aim of her visit to Lebanon was to publicise the plight of Kham prisoners and of Lebanese prisoners held in Israel.

"These things should be known outside Lebanon," she said. She is meeting

senior Lebanese officials including President Elias Hrawi as well as former prisoners and their families during a week-long stay.

Ms. Weyl said when she returned to France she would contact Israeli officials to get SLA Chief General Antoine Lahd's permission to allow her to enter Kham.

"I tried to visit it. I didn't succeed so far. The Israelis say ask Lahd and Lahd says ask the Israelis," Ms. Weyl said. "It's ping pong game."

"Even in Israel many people think it is not normal that Kham is not opened (to visits). I met people in Israel who were with me," she added.

She said she met six Lebanese captives in Ashkelon prison in Israel two weeks ago but did not see Muslim militant leader Mustapha Al Dirani, who was kidnapped by Israeli commandos from eastern Lebanon in May.

## Beirut reconstruction put on hold as archaeologists cry foul

BEIRUT (AFP) — The multi-million-dollar reconstruction of Beirut city centre has been put on hold after a bulldozer rammed into an ancient wall, prompting archaeologists to cry foul.

The experts charged that in his haste the contractor in charge of rebuilding the infrastructure had destroyed a wall dating back to the 13th century B.C.

The Moawad contracting firm "is destroying, and has dumped into the sea over the past three weeks, a section of a site dating back to the second millennium before Christ," charged archaeologist Freddy Naccache.

The wall destroyed last Wednesday was part of the surrounding wall of ancient Beirut which was excavated several months ago, he said.

Beirut MP Mohammad Kabbani echoed the accusation and called on the international community to help safeguard Beirut's ancient heritage.

"Archaeologists cannot keep pace with the giant bulldozers," he said, calling for coordination between contractors and archaeologists.

On Nov. 18 Moawad and the Italian consortium Consorzio Cooperativo Costruzioni clinched a contract worth \$63.7 million to rebuild the infrastructure of the war-shattered city centre of Beirut.

Under the deal signed with Solidere, the private company in charge of developing and rebuilding the city centre, Moawad pledged to cut the work from four to three years in exchange for an additional \$13 million.

Thousands of fragments of pottery are scattered across the site overlooking the Mediterranean Sea. The surrounding wall has been flattened.

Leyla Badr, archaeologist at the American University of Beirut in charge of the site, said that if the bulldozers had deviated from their initial course by five metres "this vandalism would have been avoided."

Moawad, insisting it was not to blame for the damage, suspended work to allow for greater cooperation with the experts.

But the firm's director said: "If we have to stop the bulldozers each time we see a fragment of pottery it will take us 50 years before we can rebuild the city centre."

Solidere's archaeology consultant Harth Bustani played down the importance of the damage.

"Accidents happen on big construction sites," he said, stressing Solidere's commitment to preserving the largest possible number of archaeological sites.

Mr. Bustani complained, however, that not enough archaeological teams were working on digs because "the official of antiquities does not have the means to hire more people."

### JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

#### PROGRAMME TWO

17:00 ..... Tao-Tao  
17:30 ..... Film: "Les Eaux Douces"  
19:00 ..... News in French  
19:30 ..... N.B.A.  
19:45 ..... Planete En Equilibre  
20:30 ..... The Road to Avonlea  
21:10 ..... Tequila and Bonetti  
22:00 ..... News in English  
22:30 ..... Feature Film  
23:59 ..... The Investigator

#### PRAYER TIMES

05:00 ..... Fajr  
06:32 ..... (Sunrise) Doha  
11:30 ..... Dhuhur  
16:30 ..... Asr  
18:00 ..... Isha

#### CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church  
Swedish, Tel. 810740  
Assemblies of God Church, Tel.  
632785  
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590  
Church of the Annunciation Tel.  
637440  
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757  
Terrasanta Church Tel. 623566  
Church of the Annunciation Tel.  
623541  
Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel.  
628543

Armenian Catholic Church Tel.  
771331

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel.  
775261

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751

Armenian International Church Tel.  
625226

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel.  
624328

German-speaking Evangelical Con-  
gregation Tel. 684195

The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932

Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691

The Evangelical Local Church in  
Amman Tel. 681289

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Depart-  
ment of Meteorology.

It will be sunny with winds south-  
easterly moderate to active. In  
Aqaba, moderate weather condi-  
tions will prevail with winds nor-  
therly moderate and seas calm.

Min/Max. temp. 2 / 14

Amman 8 / 23

Aqaba 8 / 23

Deserts 0 / 16

Jordan Valley 9 / 22

Yesterday's high temperatures:  
Amman 14, Aqaba 22, Humidity  
readings: Amman 45 per cent,  
Aqaba 27 per cent.

### JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

#### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

##### NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:  
Dr. Fakih Tayeh ..... 685880  
Dr. Salma Al Daboubi ..... 76751  
Dr. Nidal Al Dahleh ..... 827195  
Dr. Bassam Karadshich ..... 759200  
First pharmacy ..... 661912  
Ferdows pharmacy ..... 718336  
Al Asana pharmacy ..... 637055  
Nairoukh pharmacy ..... 623672  
Al Salam pharmacy ..... 636750  
Yacoub pharmacy ..... 64945  
Shmeisan pharmacy ..... 637660  
Najib pharmacy ..... 847632  
JRBID:  
Dr. Ahmad Oanu ..... (-)  
Alquds pharmacy ..... (-)  
ZARQA:  
Dr. Ahmad Al Tarifi ..... 90806  
Khalifeh pharmacy ..... 985417

#### EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre ..... 637111

Civil Defence Department 661111  
Civil Defence Immediate 630541  
Civil Defence Emergency 199  
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777  
Fire Brigade 67763  
Blood Bank 775121  
Highway Police 845402  
Traffic Police 896590  
Public Security Department 65221  
Hotel Complaints 605800  
Price Complaints 661176  
Water and Sewerage 897467  
Complaints 897467  
Amman Municipality 787111  
Complaints 641646  
Telephone Information  
(directory assistance) 121  
Overseas Calls 010230  
Central Amman Telephone  
Repairs 623101  
Abdali Telephone Repairs 641101  
Jordan Television 774111  
Radio Jordan 774111  
Water Authority 680100  
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615  
Electric Power  
Company 636381  
RJ Flight Information 08-53200  
Queen Alia Int. Airport 08-53200

#### HOSPITALS

AMMAN:  
Hawazin Medical Centre 81381332  
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn 6422818  
Al-Khalid Maternity, J. Amn 6424412  
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362  
Malinas, J. Amman 636140  
Palestine, Shmeisan 6641714  
Shmeisan Hospital 669131  
University Hospital 845845  
Al-Mushar Hospital 6072279  
The Islamic, Abdali 6661737  
Al-Ahli, Abdali 6641646  
Italian, Al-Mubajreen 7771013  
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 77511126  
Army, Marka 89161115  
Queen Alia Hospital 60224050  
Amal Hospital 674155  
ZARQA:  
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323  
Zarqa National Hospital (09)986732  
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732  
Al-Hikma Medical Hospital (09)999990  
JRBID:  
Princess Basma Hospital (02)725355  
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)722775  
Ibn Al-Nafies Hospital (02)97100

AQABA:  
Princess Haya Hospital ..... (09)314111

#### FOR THE TRAVELLER

##### QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

#### ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights  
(Terminal 1)  
04:00 ..... Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)  
06:00 ..... Aden (RJ)  
07:20 ..... Sana'a (RJ)  
09:15 ..... Aqaba (RJ)  
09:55 ..... Riyadh (RJ)  
10:30 ..... Bahrain, Doha (RJ)  
10:30 ..... New Delhi (RJ)  
18:25 ..... Colombo (RJ)  
17:00 ..... New York, Amsterdam (RJ)  
18:00 ..... Cairo, Aqaba (RJ)  
18:25 ..... London, Berlin (RJ)  
19:00 ..... Abu Dhabi, Al Ain (RJ)  
19:10 ..... Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)  
20:00 ..... Rome (RJ)

20:25 ..... Bangkok, Calcutta (RJ)  
20:30 ..... Athens, Larnaca (RJ)  
02:30 ..... Amsterdam (KL)

#### Other Flights (Terminal 2)

12:00 ..... Sharqah (AH)  
13:00 ..... Riyadh (SV)  
16:15 ..... Dubai (EK)  
17:00 ..... Doha (Q7)  
17:50 ..... Paris, Damascus (AF)  
20:05 ..... Cairo (ME)  
20:30 ..... Beirut (ME)  
22:55 ..... Istanbul (TK)  
01:10 ..... Amsterdam (KL)

#### DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ)  
Flights  
(Terminal 1)

05:45 ..... Beirut (RJ)  
07:00 ..... Aqaba (RJ)  
10:40 ..... Abu Dhabi, Al Ain (RJ)  
10:45 ..... Amsterdam, Chicago (RJ)  
11:00 ..... Montreal, Toronto (RJ)  
11:00 ..... Rome (RJ)  
11:45 ..... Larnaca, Athens (RJ)  
11:55 ..... Paris (RJ)  
12:00 ..... London (RJ)  
12:45 ..... Cairo (RJ)  
20:20 ..... Jeddah (RJ)  
21:15 ..... Bahrain, Doha (RJ)  
21:25 ..... Dubai, Muscat (RJ)  
22:10 ..... Kuala Lumpur, Jakarta (RJ)

#### Other Flights (Terminal 2)

06:15 ..... Beirut (ME)  
13:30 ..... Sharqah (AH)  
14:00 ..... Riyadh (SV)  
17:15 ..... Dubai (EK)

17:30 ..... London (70)  
21:00 ..... Cairo (MS)  
02:30 ..... Amsterdam (KL)

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Arr. Damascus ..... 5:00 p.m. every Monday  
Dep. Damascus ..... 7:30 a.m. every Sunday  
Arr. Amman ..... 5:00 p.m. every Sunday

#### MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in Jds per kg.

Apple ..... 700 / 500  
Banana ..... 600 / 400  
Banana (Mukammal) ..... 600 / 400  
Cabbage ..... 170 / 100  
Carrot ..... 280 / 170  
Cauliflower ..... 350 / 200  
Clementine ..... 330 / 200  
Cucumbers (large) ..... 400 / 100  
Cucumbers (small) ..... 600 / 300  
Eggplant ..... 280 / 160  
Garlic ..... 550 / 400  
Grape Fruit ..... 340 / 180  
Lemon ..... 260 / 120  
Marrow (large) ..... 250 / 100  
Marrow (small) ..... 420 / 100  
Onion (green) ..... 200 / 100  
Onion (dry) ..... 400 / 100  
Orange ..... 540 / 400  
Pepper (hot) ..... 420 / 300  
Pepper (sweet) ..... 420 / 300  
Potato ..... 300 / 200  
Radish ..... 280 / 100  
Spinach ..... 280 / 100  
String Beans ..... 900 / 700  
Tomato ..... 460 / 300

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## reconstruction hold as ologists cry for

The 41-year-old city centre old after a 100-year-old reconstruction project that in practice is being delayed by the in-adequate funding of the 1994-1995 budget.

Under the deal signed between the private sector and the government, the city centre is to be reconstructed over a period of 10 years. The project is being funded by the government and the private sector.

Archaeologists are concerned that the reconstruction work will damage the historical sites in the city centre. They are calling for a more careful approach to the project.

The reconstruction project is being delayed by the in-adequate funding of the 1994-1995 budget. The government is struggling to find the necessary funds to complete the project.

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His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Wednesday confers with Dr. Ishfaq Ahmad of the Pakistan National Atomic Energy Corporation (Petra photo).

## Jordan, Pakistan explore cooperation in peaceful use of nuclear energy

AMMAN (Petra) — Prospects for cooperation between Pakistan and Jordan in the peaceful use of nuclear energy were discussed at the Royal Court between His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, and a delegation from the Pakistan National Atomic Energy Corporation led by Dr. Ishfaq Ahmad.

Discussion covered the possible use of nuclear energy by the two countries to increase agricultural production, in medicine and in food preservation processes.

In remarks at the meeting, the Regent suggested that the two sides form an objective concept that would enable Islamic nations to become self-reliant in nuclear energy generation, and would be supported by the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

Dr. Ahmad lauded Prince Hassan's ongoing efforts towards Jordan's progress in science and technology and invited the Regent to preside over a meeting by Muslim scientists to draft a working plan, which, he said, would enable the Muslim world to enter the 21st century equipped with the required scientific knowledge need for progress.

Present at the meeting was Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Talal Uteiqat, Secretary General of the Higher Council for Science and Technology (HSCST) Hani Mulki, and Pakistani Ambassador to Jordan Tariq Khan Afridi.



AWARDING SERVICE: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Wednesday presents former Director General of the Antiquities Department Dr. Tell with Al Kawkab Medal of the Second Order. The medal was conferred upon Dr. Tell in appreciation of his efforts during his service at the department. Dr. Tell resigned earlier this year and is currently working at the University of Jordan (Petra photo).

## Princess Basma Hospital suffers from lack of facilities — staff

IRBID (J.T.) — Administrators and physicians at the Princess Basma government hospital in Irbid Wednesday complained of the lack of sufficient facilities to cope with emergencies, particularly cases of carbon monoxide poisoning from kerosene and gas heaters which always increase during winter.

Addressing a meeting, organised at the hospital to tackle problems related to emergency services, hospital Director Nasser Zoubi said the meeting was convened to focus particularly on the number of suffocation patients admitted to the hospital, many of whom die, he said.

Dr. Nasser said that too often such fume poisoning victims are brought to the hospital, and staff stand helpless to treat them for lack of facilities.

Nidal Obeidat, a physician at the hospital, told the Jordan Times that at least four to five cases of poisoning, mainly from carbon monoxide inhalation are admitted daily.

Last month such cases led to at least four deaths, added Dr. Obeidat, who took part in the Wednesday "Science Day" meeting opened by Health Minister Aref Bataineh.

Dr. Bataineh pledged that the health ministry would make available the required facilities and create the suitable atmosphere at the government medical unit.

Foundation on Thursday at 5:00 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

★ Exhibition of paintings on leather by Iraqi artist Rakan Daboudh at the Phoenix Gallery for Culture and Art.

★ Paintings and water colours exhibition by Suhail Ma'touq at Basma Art Gallery.

★ Art exhibition by Ammar Khammash and Fasad Minal at Instituto Cervantes (the Spanish Cultural Centre).

★ Exhibition of home furnishings and furniture entitled "Colours and Crafts" at the Queen Alia Fund for Social Development new offices, Al Madina Al Munawara Street.

★ Exhibition of works by Mahmud Obaidi at Darat Al Fann. Also showing an exhibition of portraits by Fahrelnissa Zeid and the exhibition of contemporary Arab artists.

★ Exhibition of oil paintings by Salman Abbas at Alia Art Gallery.

★ Exhibition of paintings by Ismail and Tamam Shammout at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation.

★ Exhibition of paintings by Sadik Kwaish at the French Cultural Centre.

★ Exhibition by Akram Naji Staker at Ab'ad Art Gallery.

★ Exhibition of paintings by Dr. Ali Al Ghoul at the Italian Language Centre (Tel. 669348).

★ Exhibition by artists Latif Al Khateeb and Mahy Khateeb at the Housing Bank Gallery.

★ Dialogue with artists Ismail and Tamam Shammout at Abdul Hameed Shoman

## RJ marketing conference looks to service-oriented, market-driven future

By Cathy King  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — In 1994 Royal Jordanian (RJ) fell short of its targeted revenue by \$45.9 million, the most important objective for 1995 therefore, is to increase productivity and efficiency levels that will generate rates of profitability, RJ President and Chief Executive Officer Nader Dahabi said Wednesday.

To meet the demands of growing competitiveness and new challenges anticipated in the wake of the Jordan-Israel peace treaty (and the peace process in general), RJ plans to adopt stricter service standards, greater dynamism and better marketing policies, according to the national carrier's senior management.

"Our organisation has to go through a radical change from the bureaucratic and rigid to a service-oriented and market-driven one," Mr. Dahabi said at the 31st annual marketing conference yesterday.

The government's decision to commercialise the airline in preparation for privatisation in about two years, should provide flexibility, better efficiency and productivity; all components necessary for a dynamic market-driven phenomenon, he said.

Constant training and re-training is required, he added, to keep pace with new technology.

"Technology can be obtained in a fairly short span of time, albeit at high capital cost. What we lack and need to develop is the human expertise to absorb this rapid onslaught of new technologies," Mr. Dahabi explained.

Training programmes will be supervised by fore-



Royal Jordanian (RJ) Chairman Basel Jardaneh Wednesday addressed the national carrier's 31st annual marketing conference. On the podium are RJ President and Chief Executive Officer Nader Dahabi (right) and RJ Vice President of Marketing and Sales Majdi Sabri (Photo by Hatem Ali).

ign specialists and will aim to enhance the quality of service. He said that training would be concentrated upon personnel in reservations, ticketing and the airport services sectors in addition to aircraft cabin attendants.

"Demand for our services will depend on aircraft types, departure and arrival times, frequency of service, air fares, in-flight service, the quality of ground handling and other features," said Mr. Dahabi.

Highlighting 1994 performance, he said that RJ aircraft had flown 2.2 per cent more hours than in 1993, passenger traffic increased by 4.5 per cent over 1993 and cargo traffic by one per cent.

However, translated into actual revenue yield, RJ experienced a drop of \$8.7 million in comparison to 1993's yield, Mr. Dahabi said.

Studies have identified the passenger routes which incur major losses, and they have also determined that long-haul cargo routes are not profitable either.

Modernisation of the RJ fleet is another target, with the intention of phasing out some of the Tristars and the older Boeing 727s to begin in 1995.

But the cost of replacement, Mr. Dahabi said, is high.

To cope with expected tourism in the region, more small-sized planes with a passenger capacity of between 30-60 will operate

between Amman and Aqaba, Hurgada, Luxor, Alexandria, Larnaca, Damascus and Beirut, Mr. Dahabi announced.

With a view to cutting costs and as part of the prelude to the privatisation of RJ, the government will sell 75 per cent of the Alia Gateway Hotel and 50 per cent of the duty free shop at Queen Alia International Airport (QALIA).

Commercialisation of the catering and training facilities, maintenance and all cargo operations has also been proposed, he added.

Mr. Dahabi said that targets for 1995 would result in a growth of 17.5 per cent in passenger traffic and excess baggage and 9 per cent in cargo, which should stabilise present re-

venue yields.

"I am confident these are realistic figures considering the new long haul route to Japan and the expected upsurge of tourism. This should help us to reach a break-even point with total costs or hopefully record a small profit on a revenue of JD 293 million," he said.

The one-day conference, which included a working session and several 15-minute presentations by various departments, was also addressed by Chairman of the Board of Directors Basel Jardaneh and RJ Vice President of Marketing and Sales Majdi Sabri.

The conference was attended by about 100 marketing and sales personnel from Jordan and around the world.

## Tafleh woman accidentally shoots herself — CDD

By Rana Hussein  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A 23-year-old woman from Ahleh town in Tafleh, who shot herself accidentally while cleaning her father's hunting rifle, died Wednesday in Prince Zaid hospital, according to Civil Defence Department (CDD) reports.

The victim's mother told police that while her daughter was cleaning the gun, accidentally one bullet was fired, striking the young woman in the neck.

Hospital sources said the victim, identified as Adia A.K., was declared dead on arrival.

Tafleh police contacted by the Jordan Times refused to release further details and said they seized the rifle and are investigating the incident.

Poisoning victims released from hospital

Meanwhile, 13 Egyptian workers in Wadi Sir, who on Tuesday suffered a mild form of food poisoning, reportedly left Al Bashir Hospital Wednesday.

The 13 men, aged 17 to 32, were reported to have been complaining of vomiting and diarrhoea, and were treated at the government hospital.

According to a police re-

port, the men had cooked and eaten chicken that had been frozen when they purchased it.

A CDD official said one other person residing with the other workers had not eaten from the meal. "It was who informed us about the poisoning," said the official.

According to the hospital official, samples of the food are being tested to determine what kind of bacteria caused the food poisoning.

All 13 workers have returned to work and are reported in good condition, the hospital official said.

According to the CDD official, such group poisonings among workers are common.

He said that often workers coming from neighbouring countries live together in groups in small houses and usually cook one meal for themselves.

"In some cases, they cook extra portions for the next day, and do not store the food properly or leave the meal outside unrefrigerated for the rest to eat," the official said.

In other cases, he added, workers may store food in aluminium containers, where chemical reactions can render the contents unfit for human consumption.

## Joint committee meets in Aqaba

AQABA (Petra) — The Jordanian-Israeli Joint committee for the Red Sea cities of Aqaba and Eilat Wednesday held a meeting here under the co-chairmanship of Aqaba Region Authority President Fayez Khasawneh and Israeli Deputy Defence Minister Noah Kayari. The committee discussed crossing procedures between the two cities in accordance with article 23 of the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty signed Oct. 26. The two sides agreed to resume their talks in the first half of January. On the Jordanian side the meeting was attended by directors of the Aqaba Ports Corporation, the Jordan Electricity Authority, the Free Zones Corporation and the Secretary General of the Aqaba Region Authority. On the Israeli side it was attended by representatives of the ministries of Tourism and Transport, the charge d'affaires in Amman and the director of Israel's regional projects.

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Visiting U.S. Congressman Tom Lantos Wednesday meets with members of the board of the Jordanian Businessmen's Association.

## Visiting U.S. congressman pledges help in opening Gulf markets to Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — Visiting U.S. Congressman Tom Lantos Wednesday met with the chairman and members of the board of directors of the Jordanian Businessmen's Association (JBA) and pledged to help the association's bid to re-open markets in the Gulf countries to Jordanian products as well as Jordanian labour.

According to a JBA statement Mr. Lantos also promised to do what he can to help the Palestinian economy remain closely linked to the Jordanian economy.

Congressman Lantos, who on Tuesday met His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, is a member of the U.S. House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee.

Saying that it was difficult to expect a rush of investments in the Middle East region following five decades of war and tensions, Mr. Lantos, a Democrat from California said the Middle East was in need of a Marshall style plan which was implemented in the reconstruction of Europe after World War II.

The visiting congressman promised to encourage American investment companies to make contacts with the Jordanian market, according to the JBA statement.

JBA Chairman Hamdi Tabbaa presented the association's views concerning in-

vestments in the Kingdom in the peace era, urging the United States to play a key role in this regard.

Mr. Tabbaa also requested that Washington help re-open the Gulf states' markets to Jordanian exports and ensure that the markets of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip remain closely linked economically with the Kingdom.

Noting that Jordan has sustained heavy economic losses over the past five decades, resulting from forced migrations of people, Mr. Tabbaa said the Kingdom was in urgent need of U.S. assistance to help it deal with such chronic issues as unemployment and poverty.

## Happy Birthday to our Precious Mother Amal

Youth fades, love drops, the leaves of friendship fall, but our mother's secret hope outlives them all. In the words of Khalil Gibran, "the aggrieved and the injured say, "Beauty is kind and gentle. Like a mother half-shy of her own glory she walks among us."

In her thought she can measure the time into season, she can let each season encircle all the other seasons, And most important of all, she can let today embrace the past with remembrance and the future with longing. And we do share this blessing and know our Mother's worth, We would not trade her love and care for anything on Earth.

With all our love and respect —  
Your son and daughter.  
Tamir and Tamara Hassan Shaaban



## Major announces first fruits of Northern Ireland peace

BELFAST (R) — British Prime Minister John Major said Wednesday large investment projects by British, U.S. and Japanese firms were the first economic fruits of Northern Ireland's new-found peace.

At a Belfast Investment conference, called to cash in on a "peace dividend" after rival guerrillas laid down their arms, Mr. Major said optimism in the province was at its highest for 25 years and appealed to business leaders for more investment.

He said the dogged determination shown by Northern Ireland's people during times of violence was the most compelling reason for them to invest in the province now peace had come.

"What terror knocked down, the brave people of Northern Ireland have rebuilt, in some cases again and again," Mr. Major told more than 250 delegates from 13 countries.

"They testify to the determination and enterprise of Northern Ireland's people, to human qualities which cannot be taught or manufactured."

"You will find these human qualities the most compelling reason of all for tak-

ing a stake in Northern Ireland."

U.S. Commerce Secretary Ron Brown backed him, telling reporters after the meeting: "People expect their lives to change when peace comes and you have to be prepared to meet those expectations."

The forum is the latest step in a rapid but fragile peace process which formally began a year ago Thursday with the Downing Street Declaration, a joint Anglo-Irish peace plan.

But the meeting was shunned by the IRA's political wing Sinn Fein, whose six local councillors picketed it in protest at the half-hearted invitation Britain made them at the last minute.

Sinn Fein, which last week sat down with British officials for the first formal talks for more than 70 years as a reward for the Irish Republican Army's (IRA) ceasefire on Sept. 1, said it was being discriminated against. Britain denied this.

British officials are to talk Thursday to allies of Protestant guerrillas, the IRA's arch-enemies, who announced their own truce in

October.

They want Northern Ireland to stay British. The IRA, backed by some of the province's Catholic minority, fought for 25 years to end British rule and Ireland's seven decades of partition.

The troubles turned a booming, industrialised economy into one dependent on British state hand-outs and public-sector jobs. Mr. Major hopes peace could restore it to its former glory.

Mr. Major announced that the five companies from Britain, the United States and Japan had decided to invest a total of £60 million (\$94 million) in the province.

The biggest investment, just over half that sum, will come from telecommunications giant British Telecom whose office expansion projects will create more than 100 new jobs.

Ford cars, the chemicals giant Du Pont and Naco Forklift truckmakers are bringing the U.S. investment and Japan's Fujitsu computer group has also announced plans for the province.

Mr. Major also said Britain will launch an initiative to get the long-term unemployed in the province back to work

with a community work programme which will give 1,000 of them "stimulating and meaningful work" over the next two years.

Northern Ireland is a jobs blackspot with unemployment at 12.7 per cent.

Replying to U.S. criticisms that minority Catholics were still discriminated against by employers in the province, Mr. Major pledged: "Ensuring the fairest possible employment conditions is an essential objective for the British government."

Mr. Brown, heading a strong American delegation to the forum, said he was convinced the economic problems could be solved.

He said he had studied apparently intractable economic problems in many parts of the world such as Russia and the Middle East. "This is one that I think is do-able," he told reporters.

Mr. Brown welcomed Mr. Major's commitment to end job discrimination. "The fact that Mr. Major raised in his speech was, I think, very important. It is clearly one of the most serious underlying problems. Discrimination leaves many scars," he said.



MEMORIAL DAY: Relatives of Bangladeshi intellectuals, killed on the eve of Bangladesh's 1971 independence after a bloody liberation war against Pakistan, lay before their surrender on Dec. 16, 1971 to the wrath at a memorial in Dhaka Wednesday. Indian-backed Liberation Army (AFP photo) Bangladesh observes its 23rd Shaheed Intel-

## Lang says 'probably' will not stand

PARIS (AFP) — Former Culture Minister Jack Lang, tipped as the French left's front runner for presidential elections next spring after Jacques Delors pulled out, said Wednesday he "probably" will not stand as a candidate.

Mr. Lang, who has emerged as the most popular leftist figure after the withdrawal of the European Commission president from the race at the weekend, said the left should take its time in deciding its next step.

Asked on French radio: "So you won't be a candidate?" Mr. Lang replied: "That's your prediction, and you are probably not wrong."

Mr. Delors' pullout has shattered the French left, which was counting on him as the only credible electable candidate to move quickly to stem religiously motivated attacks in Karachi, where at least 92 people have been killed this month.

"The government should act fast to prevent the spread of sectarian violence or Karachi will witness another bloodbath," Hassan Turabi, general secretary of the Tehrik-e-Jafria Pakistan (TJP) group, told Reuters by telephone.

"We are finding it difficult to hold back our men from taking action against the killers of their brothers," he said, blaming a rival Sunni Muslim group for attacks on TJP workers.

He was speaking one day after gunmen killed three Shiites in separate incidents.

Police said two gunmen broke into the clinic of a 35-year-old doctor known as a TJP supporter in central Karachi Tuesday and shot him dead in front of his horrified patients.

The bullet-riddled body of a TJP activist who had been kidnapped earlier was found at a nearby construction site.

Another TJP militant was shot dead in a central area and a Shiite man was killed in eastern Karachi Tuesday morning.

Mr. Turabi accused the radical Sunni faction Sipah-e-Sahaba Pakistan (SSP) of killing a total of 14 TJP party workers since gunmen sprayed bullets at a Sunni mosque Thursday.

In opinion polls published since Mr. Delors' announcement, Mr. Lang, a Euro-MP, has consistently appeared as the most popular alternative with voters, although he would still not beat Mr. Balladur or Mr. Chirac, according to the polls.

Mr. Lang Wednesday echoed comments by maverick politician Bernard Tapie made the previous evening from the left to rally round a single candidate to avoid the risk of splitting its support.

"I think it is a good idea to gather together people who have ideas, proposals," he said, praising Mr. Tapie's "combative and energetic."

Mr. Tapie, also tipped as a possible candidate, said Tuesday he was not a candidate, but declined to rule out running if the struggle within the French left could not be resolved.

Meanwhile, French lawmakers overnight voted in favour of sweeping changes in the funding of politicians,

in particular banning corporate financing in a move intended to clean up sleaze in political life.

The National Assembly, meeting in late night session, also agreed to increase public funding of parties and candidates and to lower the ceiling on allowed expenses.

The anti-corruption measures, which will be discussed by the Senate next week, were proposed by the government in the wake of a recent wave of scandals involving politicians, including ministers.

In particular the MPs agreed to public funding of 50 per cent of election expenses, while lowering the ceiling on such expenses by 30 per cent. The latter measure was in effect imposed on them by Interior Minister Charles Pasqua.

The measures were agreed by 117 out of 143 deputies present for the late-night vote, with 26 abstaining. The turnout was exceptional for such a sitting.

## Crimea parliament chairman offers to quit

SIMFEROPOL, Ukraine (R) — The chairman of parliament in Ukraine's pro-Russian Crimean peninsula announced Wednesday he was resigning after a dispute over the composition of the parliamentary leadership.

Sergei Tsekov announced to deputies that he was stepping down after a week of turmoil over proposals to change the make-up of parliament's presidium, but a subsequent vote rejected his resignation and deputies were meeting to find a solution.

Mr. Tsekov has effectively become the most powerful man in Crimea's hierarchy since parliament stripped Crimea's President Yuri Meshkov of most of his powers in September.

He played the pivotal role in parliament's power struggle with Mr. Meshkov in September during which the president locked deputies out of their building for two days.

The week-long dispute focused on demands by some parliamentary factions for greater representation in the presidium, which parlia-

ment's agenda and other issues of procedure. Many deputies refused to take part in debates, blocking the chamber's work and prompting Mr. Tsekov's resignation.

Crimea, where two-thirds of the 2.7 million residents are ethnic Russians, has been pressing for closer ties with Russia. Ukraine's parliament last month rescinded dozens of pieces of legislation viewed as separatist and threatened to take further action unless the region abided by the Ukrainian constitution.

## Pakistan Shiite leader warns of Karachi bloodbath

KARACHI, Pakistan (R) — A militant Shiite Muslim leader Wednesday urged the government to move quickly to stem religiously motivated attacks in Karachi, where at least 92 people have been killed this month.

"The government should act fast to prevent the spread of sectarian violence or Karachi will witness another bloodbath," Hassan Turabi, general secretary of the Tehrik-e-Jafria Pakistan (TJP) group, told Reuters by telephone.

"We are finding it difficult to hold back our men from taking action against the killers of their brothers," he said, blaming a rival Sunni Muslim group for attacks on TJP workers.

He was speaking one day after gunmen killed three Shiites in separate incidents.

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Mr. Turabi accused the radical Sunni faction Sipah-e-Sahaba Pakistan (SSP) of killing a total of 14 TJP party workers since gunmen sprayed bullets at a Sunni mosque Thursday.

## Mandela intervenes in row between Buthelezi, Zulu king

PRETORIA (AFP) — South African President Nelson Mandela Tuesday intervened in a simmering row between Home Affairs Minister Mangosuthu Buthelezi and Zulu King Goodwill Zwelithini, Mr. Mandela's office said in a statement.

Presidential spokesman Joel Netshitenzhe said Mr. Mandela had persuaded Mr. Buthelezi, who is leader of the Zulu nationalist Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP), not to lead a march on the king's palace at Nogogoma, a remote village in the heart of KwaZulu-Natal province.

Mr. Netshitenzhe said Mr. Mandela had spoken to Mr. Buthelezi by telephone to express his concern that a march Zulu chiefs would heighten tension in the already volatile province.

"He received an undertaking from Chief Buthelezi that he would seek to stop the march," Mr. Netshitenzhe said.

Mr. Mandela intervened in the Zulu chiefs to discuss complaints that his African National Congress (ANC) was interfering in provincial matters in KwaZulu-Natal,

which is controlled by the IFP, he added.

At a day-long meeting of dozens of chiefs in Ulundi, Buthelezi's headquarters, it was decided to send a delegation to Pretoria to meet Mandela.

At the heart of the row are claims by Mr. Buthelezi and the IFP that, since historic all-race elections in April, King Zwelithini has been manipulated by ANC-aligned Zulu advisers.

The king has repeatedly snubbed requests by Mr. Buthelezi, KwaZulu-Natal Premier Frank Mdlalose, and the chiefs to meet him and no longer treats Mr. Buthelezi as his traditional prime minister.

Until the election, which was won by the ANC, King Zwelithini was in Mr. Buthelezi's pocket because the Zulu leader, as head of the now-defunct KwaZulu tribal homeland, paid his salary.

But King Zwelithini's office is now funded by the central government and the monarch has moved quickly into the ANC camp.

The king refused to meet a

delegation of chiefs Friday, claiming he was acting under doctor's orders not to attend meetings.

In a statement, the IFP said the chiefs Tuesday had been merely seeking an audience with King Zwelithini and rejected ANC claims that they tried to "march on one of the royal residences."

The statement further described as "mischievous," claims that King Zwelithini's safety had been under threat.

The ANC, the IFP added, was meddling in the affairs of the Zulu royal house and had succeeded in isolating King Zwelithini from his subjects.

King Zwelithini's spokesman, Prince Sifiso Zulu, Tuesday accused Mr. Buthelezi and the IFP of manipulating the chiefs in order to pressure the king.

The march, Prince Sifiso added, was "intended to mislead the nation as if the Amakhosi (the chiefs) are rebelling against the king."

He maintained the king was not at odds with his chiefs, who were welcome to approach him via the correct channels were followed.

## U.N. troops swoop on Rwandan camps to detain thugs, seize weapons

KIGALI (AFP) — U.N. troops launched massive pre-dawn raids on two refugee camps in southeastern Rwanda Wednesday to disarm and detain Hutu extremists who have been killing and wounding fellow refugees, U.N. spokesman Sammy Buo said.

He said around 2,000 troops went into the Kibeho and Ngogo camps, adding that those detained for possessing weapons — about 25 by the middle of the day — would be turned over to the new Tutsi-led Rwandan authorities.

The operation was continuing late afternoon under the direction of the acting commander of the U.N. Assistance Mission in Rwanda (UNAMIR), Brigadier General Henry Anyidoho of

Ghana, who was on the spot, Mr. Buo said.

Doctors working for the international charity Medecins Sans Frontieres (Doctors Without Borders) were on standby at their hospitals in the region, but Mr. Buo said the operation was going smoothly.

No shots had been fired and the camp residents had welcomed the U.N. troops, he said, adding that normal humanitarian operations had been suspended for the day but would resume Thursday.

"There have been scenes of violence in the camps lately," Mr. Buo said. "The troops are weeding out those elements, and removing grenades and so on."

The troops had seized around 200 weapons, he said,

mostly machetes and spears, using metal detectors to find those that had been hidden.

He added that the raids had been carried out after consultation with the new Tutsi-dominated government in Rwanda.

The camps in Rwanda — like those in neighbouring countries — harbour members of the majority Hutu tribe who were defeated by the Tutsis in a savage civil war that ended in July after the Tutsis captured Kigali.

Members of the Hutu intertribal militias massacred hundreds of thousands of Tutsis and Hutu opponents of a TJP supporter in central Karachi Tuesday and shot him dead in front of his horrified patients.

The bullet-riddled body of a TJP activist who had been kidnapped earlier was found at a nearby construction site.

Another TJP militant was shot dead in a central area and a Shiite man was killed in eastern Karachi Tuesday morning.

Mr. Turabi accused the radical Sunni faction Sipah-e-Sahaba Pakistan (SSP) of killing a total of 14 TJP party workers since gunmen sprayed bullets at a Sunni mosque Thursday.

## Clinton runs into Democratic flak

WASHINGTON (R) — Some of Bill Clinton's fellow Democrats, still reeling from November's electoral debacle, have begun going their own way even as the president prepares to lay out his agenda and define his relationship with the new Republican Congress.

House of Representatives Democratic leader Richard Gephardt all but declared his dissent on economic policy Tuesday, and former Senator Paul Tsongas, once a candidate for the Democratic presidential nomination, began laying the groundwork for a third party in 1996.

Mr. Clinton was to address the nation from the White House at 9 p.m. EST (2000 GMT) Thursday. He cleared his schedule of all public events in advance of the speech to hold budget and policy meetings which will help shape its content.

But in a speech Tuesday which he made despite administration pleas to delay it, Mr. Gephardt drew a clear distinction between the policies of the Democratic forces in Congress and those of the Democratic president.

"Our agenda will come from America's houses, not from the White House and not from anywhere else," he said.

Political analysts view Mr. Clinton's address as a pivotal part of his effort to recover from the drubbing handed to him and his party in last month's elections.

Aides said Mr. Clinton would speak from the residential part of the White

House rather than the Oval Office, to give his first major post-election policy pronouncements a folksy, person-to-person tone.

White House spokeswoman Ginny Terzano said that Mr. Clinton's speech, which was expected to include a proposal for a middle-class tax cut, was "an opportunity for him to say what we can do as a nation to get things back on track."

Except for two economic speeches during his first months in office, until now Mr. Clinton has used the majesty of the White House only to announce U.S. military actions.

Asked if the major U.S. television networks had agreed to carry his speech, Ms. Terzano said: "As of last night, I don't think there were commitments."

"We certainly invite them to cover it. It's an important speech," she said.

Ms. Terzano said no final decisions had been made on the shape of the tax cut proposal that Mr. Clinton is considering.

While the president pondered, Mr. Gephardt acted, proposing a tax break for families making less than \$75,000 to counter tax cuts included in incoming Republican House Speaker Newt Gingrich's "contract with America."

"Let's face it: Many of America's richest families would get a big giveaway under the (Republican) plan," Mr. Gephardt said in a speech laying out his prospective political battle plan to the centre for national policy,

a Washington think-tank. "Under our proposal, we'll allow the families that really need tax relief to stop paying taxes on part of their income," he said.

During a news conference later Tuesday, Mr. Gephardt denied he had upstaged Mr. Clinton, telling reporters: "Believe me, you don't upstage a president. There is no effort to do that."

But administration sources said that Mr. Gephardt had been asked to delay his speech and had declined. And as the Missouri lawmaker was delivering what amounted to a declaration of independence, another prominent Democrat began laying the groundwork to try to deny Mr. Clinton reelection in 1996.

Ben Tsongas told the Boston Globe he was circulating a memorandum proposing a third party led by a presidential candidate such as retired chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Colin Powell.

Sen. Tsongas said he believes "a passionate centre party that's inclusive socially and prepared to make the hard choices fiscally" could succeed "if it is led by the right person."

"The currency here would be the moral authority, the kind of moral authority the administration clearly does not have and that the 'contract with America' cannot provide, since it is poll-driven," the former Massachusetts senator said.

Sen. Tsongas said that Gen. Powell has received a copy of his nine-page memorandum, but they have not discussed the proposal.

## Political donations set to make comeback in Japan

TOKYO (R) — Major Japanese corporations keen to garner influence are poised to resume political donations after the creation of a huge new opposition party, business men said Wednesday.

But things are not going to be as easy as in the past for Japan's grand old party, the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), which used to reap the bulk of corporate largesse.

Now business has a range of conservative parties from which to choose. Many will hedge their bets.

Interest in fund-raising has also quickened because of widespread speculation about early elections if Prime Minister Tomichi Murayama's fractious Socialist Party splinters and forces a collapse of the ruling coalition.

Elections are technically not due until mid-1997.

Corporate political contributions died down in mid-1993 after Japan's most powerful business group decided to halt its 32-year practice of funneling donations to political parties.

The decision by the Japan

Federation of Economic Organisations (Keidanren) was prompted by the arrests of several politicians involved in money-for-favours scandals.

Keidanren that the organisation would not again "coordinate" political donations from its 1,200 member companies, but each firm or industry association was free to make contributions.

With the creation last week of non-Communist opposition parties, companies are considering resuming donations, officials at the firms said.

In response to requests by political parties, they plan to make contributions to one or more of the alternatives — the new opposition group, the LDP, or the Sakigake Party.

The LDP and Sakigake are partners in the Socialist-led coalition.

Both the New Frontier Party and Sakigake consist largely of parliamentarians who have broken away from the LDP over the past year and a half.

Pundits say the emergence of the New Frontier Party, the second-largest political

grouping in Japan, could be the start of a two-party system after nearly four decades of one-party rule by the LDP.

Car makers will make political contributions to the three parties through the Japan Automobile Manufacturers Association (JAMA), a JAMA official said.

JAMA, which groups 13 automobile makers, had been making political contributions to the LDP and the Democratic Socialist Party (DSP) until last year.

The prolonged recession would make it difficult for the association to increase donations, the official said. "Its contribution will likely be less than the total 95 million yen (\$950,000) it gave last year to the LDP and the DSP."

Apart from the JAMA donations, car makers also make individual contributions to political parties.

Japan's largest steel maker, Nippon Steel Corp., is considering contributing to the LDP and the New Frontier Party, Chairman Hiroshi Saito told reporters Tuesday.

"If the company decides to make political contributions this year, the total amount would be less than 50 million

yen (\$500,000)," a Nippon Steel spokesman said.

Mr. Saito, who is also chairman of the Japan Iron and Steel Federation, said the federation would leave each company in the grouping to decide a plan on political contributions.

Banks including Sumitomo Bank Ltd are likely to follow suit. A Sumitomo Bank spokesman said it would soon make a decision on political donations.

"If we do, we may extend donations to the parties related to the LDP as we used to do," he said.

Yasuoki Takouchi, chairman of the Petroleum Association of Japan, put the situation bluntly Wednesday while announcing that the association had decided to resume donations to the LDP by the end of the year.

"The association needs political power, otherwise profits will be taken away as tax," he told a news conference.

The association has not received requests from any other political parties and it has no plans to give donations to the others, he said.

## QE2 leaves Hamburg after \$45 refit

HAMBURG, Germany (R) — Cunard Line's Queen Elizabeth II luxury liner left the north German port city of Hamburg Wednesday after a 22-day, \$45-million refurbishment. The almost 300-metre-long ocean liner left the dry dock at the Blohm Voss Shipyard in the early hours and set sail for Southampton, England, where it was to undergo sea tests. All five restaurants and 900 cabins on the 13-storey ship have been revamped. Bathrooms were redecorated and some inlaid with marble. The final touches, such as laying carpets, were due to be taken care of en route to Britain.

Cunard launched the refit in New York on Nov. 14 by donating 1,500 pieces of used furniture to a U.S. charity. The QE2's new trappings include 2,252 new light fixtures, 12 pieces of commissioned art work and 10,000 pints of lager stocked in a new English pub, the Golden Lion, launched in 1967, the ship already has a 40-car garage, its own newspaper, 13 lifts and a crew of 1,000.

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## Jordan Times

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## Past age of settlements

**ISRAELI PLANS** for a massive Jewish settlement in northern Jerusalem are of utmost concern to not only Arab inhabitants in the Holy City area but also the Arab countries involved in the peace process with the Jewish state.

The plans, as reported in the Jerusalem Post newspaper a couple of days ago, would mean, on the one hand, the perpetuation of the Israeli policy of encircling Arab residents, thus preventing them from expanding their presence on their own and lawful property, and, on the other, applying enough pressure on the Arabs to eventually force them out of the city and its environs. Indeed, the plans renew Arab fears about the continuation of Israel's expansionist policies at the expense of Arab rights and reinforce the accusations that Israel never was serious about its pledge to discuss the issue of Jerusalem in the final status talks.

The Palestine-Israel Oslo deal and the subsequent Cairo agreement which pledge eventual Israeli withdrawal from the rest of the occupied Arab lands of Palestine, would seem pointless as long as the Jewish settlements continue to exist and expand amidst the Arab population centres.

Needless to say that plans for new Israeli colonies in the West Bank make a mockery of a pledge given by the Israeli government to the U.S. administration that the \$10 billion loan guarantees, payments from which Israel continues to receive, would not be utilised to finance the creation of more settlements. Should the latest plans go ahead and the actual building of settlements take place, not only would the local population choke, but the whole peace process would be in real jeopardy.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i Arabic daily Wednesday discussed the question of the Palestinian refugees in light of the meetings going on in Turkey, of the working group on refugees, part of the multilateral phase of the Middle East peace process, noting that despite the lapse of more than four decades since the Palestinian tragedy, the world community is failing to do the refugees justice. The Palestine refugees problem lies at the heart of the Arab-Israeli conflict and unless it is resolved the whole Middle East region would remain deprived of stability and security, said Ibrahim Al Abssi. More than 40 nations are gathered at Antakia, in Turkey, to discuss a solution for the refugee issue, but no one has heard about their real mission and whether any progress has been achieved towards serving the refugees' just cause, said the writer. Without a just solution to the Palestine problem, the seeds of conflict remain deeply rooted in the area and without the implementation of U.N. resolutions, the region can enjoy no genuine or lasting peace, added the writer. He said mere meetings and announcements that delegations from 40 nations are gathering to discuss the refugees issue can by no means settle this chronic problem.

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i Wednesday lauded current moves on the part of voluntary groups and the Ministry of Social Development towards advancing the position of Jordanian women, especially those living in the rural regions, but said what is being done is not enough. Sabah Madani said that many women in rural regions are hindered from advancing their standing by economic difficulties and social taboos, in some cases, and are deprived of proper training to help them earn a living or eradicate their illiteracy. Government institutions concerned with advancing the status of women should join hands with the voluntary groups in launching regular and consistent programmes to spread education, vocational training in trades most needed by the local market.

## VIEW FROM ACADEMIA

# Students who need help are many, but who helps them?

By Dr. Ahmad Y. Majdoubek

AMONG THE many impediments which stand in the way of effective performance by students at college level is the poor quality of their educational experience and background prior to their admission. The school years, the so-called elementary and preparatory stages, greatly shape and determine the degree of benefit students derive from higher education and the nature of the obstacles and problems they encounter. To help our students overcome such impediments, obstacles and problems, our higher education institutions (colleges and universities alike) ought to pay more attention than they do to students' prior experience and background as a factor influencing the educational process negatively.

There is a widespread feeling among instructors in the various disciplines at our higher colleges and universities that newly admitted fall extremely short of our expectations and are way below the standards. I am not speaking here about subjects which students in the earlier stages find "difficult," say English and math, but about all subjects. The newcomers suffer from "weakness" (this is the term we use) in all the fields they choose to major in: English, Arabic, history, sociology, finance, physics, math, engineering, medicine, you name it.

The percentage of those considered "weak" is quite high. With some exceptional cases in this or that discipline or field or at this or that institution, the percentage of weak students ranges from 65 to 75 of the total number of students. By "weakness" we mean several things at once. "Weakness" means that students' knowledge of the material in the individual subject they study is poor, that their ability to digest new material and internalise it (rather than simply memorise) is unsatisfactory, that their commitment to the fields they specialise in (preparation, participation in discussions, enthusiasm for learning) and their appreciation of them are almost entirely absent, that their attitude towards education as a whole is extremely amateurish and dismissive, etc.

The sad thing is that, as things stand at present, most of those who come to colleges and universities "weak" graduate weak. Very little education happens, and very little change occurs. The reasons are manifold, some are understandable others are not. Understandably, colleges and universities have certain levels and certain standards below which they cannot descend and on which they cannot compromise. This is not only their right, but in fact their duty. We do want to aim high, for the sake of the minority

of students (a significant minority, mind you) who have the potential to excel (and in fact do), with whom one wants to break new ground and reach deeper frontiers and for the sake of the integrity of higher education itself. The lower the standard, the poorer the quality of education. Furthermore, the nature of higher education is such that most instructors stand quite rightly to a great extent are preoccupied most of the time with the material of the specific course or seminar that they have very little time (if any) in the class to devote to problems which can only be solved outside the classroom, especially since many of these problems are psychological and sociological.

But there are two other reasons which we ought to confront and do something about. The first has to do with the size of the class. Generally, classes at our colleges and universities (with the exception of many private colleges and universities) are quite large. In many courses (including those whose nature presupposes smaller numbers, such as writing, translation, oral skills, etc.), the number of students actually enrolled is outrageously high. The second has to do with our familiarity with the problem and with the lack of serious interest, determination and will to do something about it. All instructors and academic decision-makers at our colleges and universities are aware of the students' background as a problem, but very few are attempting seriously to do something about it.

We need to take into account two points if we are to tackle the matter at hand and attempt a remedy:

1. In addition to reducing the number of students enrolled in the various courses, and thus giving instructors the opportunity to get to know their students better and diagnose their problems more accurately, we ought to change our attitude and our stance vis-a-vis the weakness of background. We may not be able, in the end, to fix all the gaps and loopholes and to correct all the mistakes and errors which students have inherited over the years, but we can certainly fix and correct many of them. The way things stand now, we seem to have a helpless and submissive attitude. This is wrong. I believe that the first thing we need to do, if we want to really help these students (who truly need our help) is to rethink more positively, to change our negative attitude and to seriously do something. To sit and lament, as we currently do, is no use. Where there is a will there is a way.

2. We must distinguish between two types of "weak" students. The first type includes those whose "problems"

can be dealt with and fixed through the various courses they take. The second comprises those who need ample time outside the classroom, for they need more serious attention, assistance and help. The former are those who have the potential to excel, but for a variety of reasons have not realised the potential. They may have been a bit lazy, unmotivated and uninterested. However, they are still fresh and healthy. All they need is some sincere encouragement and a bit of guidance. Hit the right button and they begin to function, learn and progress. The latter are those who have experienced a major "damage" (I can't think of a better word) and need thorough diagnosis and long-term treatment. Students belonging to this category have, in addition to lack of command of the very basics, (for example, students wishing to major in English who write, "he is gos to schule and browt many knowlege" — I am not making this up), a serious attitude problem. Either they think that they are much better qualified than they really are and refuse to admit that they have a weakness, or they think they are absolutely helpless and impossible to improve and develop. "We have tried," they say, "and it does not work."

My tennis coach said something to me a few years back, which applies perfectly here. He'd rather, he says, teach those who have not played tennis before than those who have. Those who have, either think they know how to play when everything they do is incorrect (the way they hold the racket, swing their arms, hit the ball, etc.) or think they can never master the game. The impediments here are psychological.

Our colleges and universities must schedule time outside lecture hall for students with serious weaknesses. We can create workshops, seminars, group discussions (all in small numbers) to focus on the various obstacles and impediments which lurk behind what we call "weakness." The atmosphere must be informal, friendly, cheerful and healthy as possible. The can be done either as part of the students' study load, after they (of course) plan ahead of time with advisors chosen specially for the task and after agreeing with them to reduce the study load to make room for such workshops or seminars.

Just as we have a commitment to the excellent students, we have a commitment to those we call weak. It is not enough for us to chide them, preach to them, evaluate them and fail them. They need tangible help inside and outside the classroom.

# Chechenya — a Bosnia in the making

By Dr. Mohydeen I. Quandour

The speedy disintegration of the former Soviet Union has led to dangerous conditions which are beginning to threaten the dissolution of the Russian Federation itself. What has transpired in the last three eventful months is difficult to comprehend unless one has seen the workings of the glasnost and perestroika era in action during the time of Mikhail Gorbachev. Regardless of what many old-guard Soviet politicians think of him, regardless of what the newly freed Russian media labels him, regardless of all accolades and retributions, Mr. Gorbachev's slow programme of liberalisation now appears to have been based on solid logic. The Chinese Communist Party learned Mr. Gorbachev's lesson and applied it successfully. Reform and slow democratisation are working in China.

It was exactly this type of chaos that Mr. Gorbachev worked hard to avoid. But he was deceived by the very people he appointed as guardians of the new reform programme and the gradual liberalisation policies which were the mainstay of his political debate. In this respect, the West is in large measure to blame for not understanding his objectives and for not helping him materially when he most needed it. History may judge him much more fairly than his own people.

The present "atmosphere of crisis" in Russia is brought on by one urgent dilemma. The dissolution of the former Soviet Union is largely illegal. The constitution of the union was ignored and the

new replacement constitution is not functioning as it should. Without some legal basis for citizenship and order, the very fiber of Russian political institutions is at risk. A unique situation has arisen in the new commonwealth: the former USSR's external borders are being reliably guarded by a collective army, even though no one is attempting to encroach upon them. At the same time the transparent internal frontiers are on the brink of revision. The collapse of the Soviet empire has produced three dozen unsettled territorial disputes.

About a dozen conflicts are particularly serious and could possibly devolve into war, as it has already happened to the Karabakh dispute and the Abkhazia/Georgia war. The current events in the north Caucasus, namely Chechenya, is another serious development. There is every likelihood that Chechenya might become another Afghanistan. If it does, then history is repeating itself and the possibility of the fire spreading to the neighbouring Caucasian republics becomes real. Volunteers have already arrived at Grozny from neighbouring republics, namely from Gabardin-Balkaria and from Dagestan. The families of Grozny have all moved up to the mountains with all their belongings and supplies. Grozny is today a city of fighting men. The 260 tanks the Russians are advancing cannot climb mountains and will be useless in a mountain warfare, as they have dis-

covered in Afghanistan.

In one respect these Russian problems — both existing and potential — are not unique. Practically everywhere after the disintegration of empires (Spanish, Ottoman, French, British) the development of conflicts proceed in line with the same pattern: first the latent period, with underlying claims but no economic or political excuse to start staking them out. The situation is aggravated when either minerals unearthed on disputed territories or the rulers in power need new trumps. This is then followed by corresponding statements from politicians and "patriotic"

articles in the official press. Then two or three clashes between the would-be parties in the dispute occur; at best they are diplomatic, at worst — combat along the border. And last, the dispute is put on record as such. Present-day interpretation of international law recommends that at an early stage of the dispute it be solved in the framework of the regional organisation to which one or another state belongs. For instance, in accordance with the 1948 Inter-American Treaty on Pacific Settlements of Disputes, the Organisation of American States prefers to act as the go-between in territorial conflicts and not to seek counsel from the U.N.

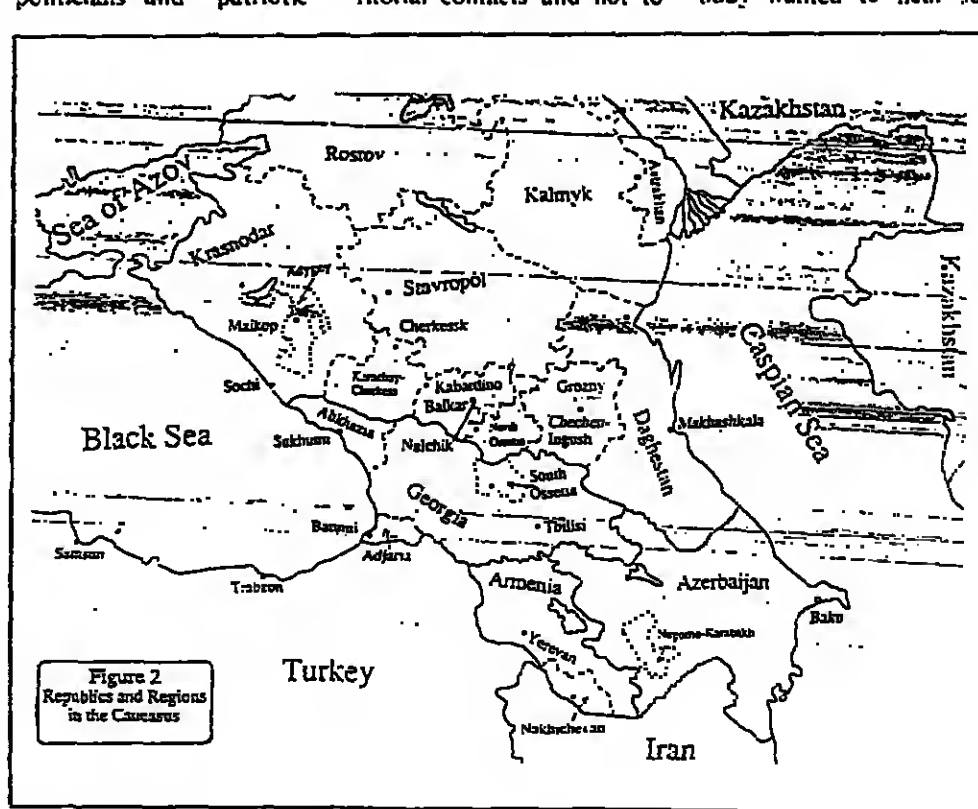


Figure 2  
Republics and Regions  
in the Caucasus

programmes. Chechenya decided, maybe hastily, to declare independence. They did it in the midst of the federation parliament's chaos and crisis, before the new constitution was in place. They thought they were taking advantage of the situation. Boris Yeltsin's reaction was a half-hearted attempt at invasion. He lost because the parliament was against invasion. The president of the parliament at that time was a Chechen himself, Russian Hisbolatov.

What is the position of the Russian parliament today towards Mr. Yeltsin's new invasion? All indications are that it will be against it again unless the Russian troops can secure a decisive and quick victory. That may not be possible in a war of attrition. It is therefore not difficult to predict the outcome: a long guerrilla war in the north Caucasus.

The West may sit back and agree with Mr. Yeltsin's claims that Chechenya is an internal affair of Russia. What was Bosnia then, if not an internal affair of Yugoslavia?

The international community must not ignore the events in the north Caucasus. They must participate, no matter how indirectly, to help resolve the crisis before it becomes a new international arena of conflict and armament sales.

The writer, who just finished a trilogy "Kavkas," published in Russia, is a management consultant with business links to Russia and the Caucasus countries. He contributed the above article to the Jordan Times.

# Russia risks starting war across the Caucasus

By Timothy Heritage  
Reuters

MOSCOW — Russian President Boris Yeltsin has launched Moscow's biggest and most dangerous military offensive in 15 years by sending troops to Chechenya, at the risk of starting a war across the Caucasus.

Mr. Yeltsin, hungry for success on the home front after being humbled at a European security summit last week, has staked his authority and his political future on a quick victory to end Chechenya's three-year bid for independence.

But the early signs are that Mr. Yeltsin has isolated himself from liberal and reformist politicians in Moscow, the military advance is not going smoothly and there is a real danger of igniting the Caucasus tinderbox.

"What is brewing in Chechenya will not end positively. There is a chance of a long Caucasian war," Grigory Yavlinsky, leader of the liberal Yabloko political group, said on Monday.

Former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, Mr. Yeltsin's arch rival, said such a war was unwinnable.

"The guerrilla war will not be fought in the capital but in the mountains. And not only in the Chechen mountains but in the whole of the northern Caucasus," Mr. Gorbachev said in an interview published by the Italian newspaper La Stampa on Tuesday.

Mr. Yeltsin says Russia is acting within its legal rights to restore constitutional order in the mainly Muslim area and protect Russian citizens. He said bloodshed should be avoided.

He sent thousands of troops and hundreds of tanks and other armoured vehicles into Chechenya in Moscow's biggest military action since the Soviet Union intervened in Afghanistan in 1979.

But clashes with Chechen units on Monday and with forces in neighbouring Ingushetia on Sunday as the troops headed for Chechenya suggested a quick and smooth victory was unlikely.

"The whole operation is very risky. Until now, the advance has been successful only in crossing friendly territory in north-west Chechenya," said a Western military expert in Moscow, referring to areas held by Chechenya's pro-Russian opposition.

"The Russian troops could be provoked into a very tough response by single attacks by Chechen forces," he said.

"A war in Chechenya, it spread around the whole of the Caucasus, terrorist acts in Russia, an all Russia emergency with the abolition of elections and the elimination of all democratic institutions, these are the most likely scenarios."

Many commentators fear Mr. Yeltsin could drag Russia into a conflict as difficult and as dangerous as the war in Afghanistan, where 13,000 Soviet soldiers were killed.

Even if a pro-Russian leadership is established in Chechenya, it could face a war on mountainous terrain favouring guerrilla attacks and involving Muslim sym-

pathisers from elsewhere. "The war would consolidate a united anti-Russian Islamic front in Russia and in the near- and far-abroad," the daily newspaper Izvestia said.

It could also trigger a chain reaction of defiance along the Caucasus "fault line" on Russia's southern rim by uniting the peoples of the region through opposition to Mos-

like tribes of the eastern Caucasus united in resistance under shamyl, a Muslim mystic who wanted to bring the hill peoples together in a single theocratic state.

The spirit of resistance has been revived since the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991 and weapons have poured in.

Sunday's defiance from Ingushetia, which also has scores to settle with Moscow, highlighted the dangers of Russia's action. Defence Minister Pavel Grachev's response — accusing Ingushetia of declaring war on Russia — was tough and ominous.

Kazakhstan, which has a Chechen minority, is worried any conflict could spread to former Soviet republics nearby.

"New military conflicts are fraught with undermining stability in the whole post-Soviet space," the Kazakh Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

Mr. Yeltsin has appeared to show his authority after what Russian newspaper called defeat on almost all fronts of diplomacy at last week's European security summit

in Budapest.

But Russian opposition parties, including hardliners have condemned Mr. Yeltsin for using force. Many say he could have left Chechenya to stew in its problems without any threat to Russia.

Alienating pro-reform leaders and triggering a bloody conflict in which Russian losses were high would damage Mr. Yeltsin's democratic credentials and could badly dent his hopes of winning presidential elections due in 1996.

Liberal Russian parliamentarian Vladimir Lysenko, speaking before the intervention, spelled out the danger for Russia.

"A war in Chechenya, it spread around the whole of the Caucasus, terrorist acts in Russia, an all-Russia emergency with the abolition of elections and the elimination of all democratic institutions, these are the most likely scenarios," he said.

"Having opted for the road, Yeltsin who began his presidency as a democratic leader, risks ending it in a totally different role."



Theatre festival postponed; but who foots the bill?

By Mohammad Mashariqa

Jordanian theatre festivals normally present an opportunity to the scholars and the critics to monitor progress in the Jordanian theatre movement.

Ever since the start of the Gulf War, which saw the closure of Gulf markets for Jordanian television production, Jordanian theatre has been witnessing a noticeable rebirth, largely due to the return of well-known actors and actresses to the stage.

Indeed, theatre groups have since been able to present to the public very successful works of art, reflecting the skill of the producers and the directors who excelled especially in classical themes and in satirical comedies.

These artists included Sawzan Darwazah, Khaled Tarifi, Fathi Abdul Rahman, Nader Omran, Vesna Mashariqa and Hakim Harb among others.

In the past three years Jordanian theatre work won very high praise at pan-Arab festivals where critics hailed the Jordanian skills that won the Kingdom several awards.

The success has prompted theatre groups to step up their activities and to organise seminars to discuss ways of further promoting theatre work and win the favour of audiences.

Luckily this year the Gulf markets slightly opened their doors for Jordanian theatre and artistic works, following arduous and relentless efforts.

Meanwhile, five of our theatre directors have submitted scripts for this year's third Jordanian Theatre Festival and made ample preparations through training and workshops from last September.

One of the directors, Khaled Tarifi said: "Directing theatre is a source of joy for me because I have always worked for theatre and I am obsessed with this kind of art work. I realise that acting requires a great deal of training and preparation and so I embarked on this hard and arduous task with all my might since the early 1980s."

AMMAN CULTURAL PULSE

"Despite the hard work of preparing for the third festival with all that it entails of sacrifice and skillful training, we were dismayed to hear the Higher Festival Committee announcement about the postponement of this long-awaited festival until the spring of 1995."

"The artists, the actors, the directors and the producers all raised the hue and cry and strongly protested the delay noting that everything was almost ready for the festival," noted Tarifi who added that the postponement was "unreasonable and unacceptable to anyone."

Vesna Mashariqa told me that everything was ready for the third festival including the costumes, the music, the decor and the lighting.

We have borrowed sums of money to be repaid after the festival said Vesna, noting that the Ministry of Culture had made a grant of JD 3,500 for the festival which she said "was not sufficient to cover expenses incurred by volunteer actors who have been working with me for 80 days."

"How does the higher committee dare to put off the festival in this arbitrary manner. It is totally unreasonable and illogical," she added.

Hatem Al Sayed, director of the theatre at the Ministry of Culture, responds to these questions by saying: "We have informed all the directors and artists and actors that they should first join the Artist Association."

"We also tried to convince everyone that due to the severe weather conditions it would be advisable to postpone the festival's date, but they turned down the idea and we are trying to persuade them to accept it," added Mr. Sayed.

I have pointed to Mr. Sayed that it was illogical to ask the artists to join the association only two weeks before the date the festival was due to start and also reminded him that he was going to Cairo to attend the Egyptian festival there soon. But he replied that his trip to Cairo has nothing to do with the festival

here, adding that he had already informed the actors and the directors of the Higher Committee's decision beforehand, and it was their own fault for failing to comply.

Mohammad Barmawi, the head of the association who was enthusiastic about the postponement of the festival and who plans to leave for Cairo too, said that he supported the postponement due to the bad weather conditions and also because some of the actors and directors have failed to join the association yet.

When I asked how can the association destroy the efforts of artists which lasted for over two months, he replied that he was trying to be of assistance but the Higher Committee's decision was final.

Before this article sees the light, the four men who decided to cancel the festival this year will have travelled to Cairo.

But those who stood to bear the damage and are dismayed by the decision asked: "Who would pay for the dress makers, the carpenters, the studios, the music and the actors?"

Tarifi swore that he would abandon theatre work for good. Fathi Abdul Rahman described the situation as "an unprecedented farce" while Vesna commented by saying that "this situation was similar to a madhouse or a lunatic asylum and not an atmosphere for promoting the work of creative people."

SOCIETY ON THE MOVE

Looking for an A team

While Jordan and Israel opened their first ever embassies in Tel Aviv and Amman this past week, Jordan's Ambassador-designate to Israel Marwan Muasher said he was still trying to assemble his team. The search, he said, is for three diplomats from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, three other staff of diplomatic rank to include a press, commercial and very probably a tourism attaché, some research staff and administrative personnel. Already on board are Ramez Quossous and Omar Nahar. Speculation about who is being considered points to junior as well as veteran cadres. It is suspected that some "outside" suggestions will be shot down by the "selection committee" as too sensitive. Nevertheless, the wait should be short as Dr. Muasher expects his move to Tel Aviv is but a matter of time. And while the other search continues for a permanent site for the embassy, he and his staff will be housed in the Dan Hotel for several months.

**OTHER DIPLOMATS ON THE GO:** Not only Israel is to get a Jordanian ambassador; Portugal too is said to be expecting a senior "Jordanian" envoy of a sort, by virtue of his lengthy tenure in Amman, which practically entitles him to citizenship. Although the appointment is still unconfirmed, this "true friend of Jordan" will be at a distinct advantage in that he is already fluent in Portuguese. The envoy in question is Pakistani Ambassador Tareq Khan Afridi.

Norwegian Ambassador Tove Kijewski hosted a dinner which, intentionally or not, turned out to be a send off for Jordan's long-time honorary consul to Oslo George Khoury. Khoury, who did not seem to mind the Nordic winds over his 30-or-so-year tenure, mused that he would always consider himself as Jordan's envoy to this part of Scandinavia for all the warmth he and his family became accustomed to there.

Wheels up for British embassy political officer Mark Le Goy who flies out of Amman today ending his three-year posting. An active, get-out-there diplomat, Le Goy will spend three months as commercial attaché in Morocco, then return to England for a yet unknown assignment. Having witnessed a rather eventful term here, Le Goy still admits that his favourite experience was driving in the 1993 National Rally with his partner, then Ambassador Patrick Evers. Others thought it would have been the midnight bolt out to Madaba to congratulate the Beni Hamideh candidate on his election to Parliament. But whatever it was, au revoir, Mark.

Le Goy is succeeded in Amman by Gregor Lusty who is on his first Foreign Office assignment abroad.



Charles Richards in the new Arabic newsroom at BBC Television Centre in London.

**BBC ARABISATION:** And Le Goy will not have to miss everything about Jordan because BBC Worldwide Television recently announced the appointment of one of its former Middle East reporters, Charles Richards, as the first editor of its Arabic news operation. Richards, who was among the throng of foreign reporters sent to Amman during the Gulf crisis, was The Independent's correspondent in Jerusalem and Rome, and more recently its Middle East editor. He is now based in the new Arabic newsroom at BBC Television Centre in London. The Arabic news operation supplies news programming for the BBC's Arabic news and information channel.

"The BBC is the first foreign broadcaster to set up an entire television news operation in a language other than its own and our output has already grown to broadcasting eight bulletins daily," said Johan Ramsland, editor of BBC World Service Television News. "Charles' wealth of knowledge and experience of Middle East affairs makes him the ideal person to guide the development of our Arabic television news as it moves to a 24-hour schedule."

The BBC's Worldwide Television Arabic language channel began broadcasting on the Orbit Television and Radio network across the Middle East and North Africa for two hours daily last June. But, here in Jordan the costs are said to be prohibitive, and only those fortunately-equipped boob-tube addicts can tune in to the new programme.

Richards' appointment comes amid the BBC's search for an Arabic television news correspondent in Jordan. The person selected for the job would have to work "hand-in-hand" with the BBC's Amman-based English news correspondent, Lyse Dusette, described affectionately by her colleagues as "workaholic Lysette." BBC's ideal candidate was most probably their very own Jordanian correspondent Salameh Nematt. But Nematt's penchant for doing a multitude of other things and his attachment to his favourite job as the Amman correspondent for the London-based Al Hayat Arabic daily were more than likely too comfortable to abandon.

While the head-hunting for the well-paying position proceeds, Al Hayat has some explaining to do over not going beyond having Nematt as correspon-

dent. Nearly a year ago the paper's chief editor Jihad Khazen got the green light from the government of Jordan to print his newspaper from Amman, but so far nothing has materialised. Sources, who said the idea behind this step is to get the paper to the West Bank and Gaza, claim the feasibility of the endeavour is still being studied. The primary determining factor appears to be where indeed it would be easier to publish from. Al Hayat says it has faced some clipped press freedoms here in Jordan. But on the West Bank the press has been shut down altogether at times. The publishers would like to see their paper reach the readers on the same day, but from which side of the river will the presses roll is still "up in the air."

Al Hayat, which began publishing in Oct. 1988, now prints from six cities: London, New York, Frankfurt, Beirut, Manama, and Cairo. That beats the Herald Tribune which prints only out of Paris. Although the paper has extended itself heavily in capital investments and has been running in the red since its inception, its funding sources, which are a highly kept secret, are undaunted by the long wait to the break-even point and finally on to profit.

Al Hayat distributing straight from Amman may be threatening enough to some media moguls, but the air smells of even more competition.

**THE ONE EVERYONE'S BEEN GUESSING ABOUT:** It's confirmed. Lower House of Parliament Deputy and former Prime Minister Taher Masri and a group of other influential businesspersons are seriously planning to start a daily Arabic newspaper, which, judging from Mr. Masri's description, could give other dailies in town a run for their money. Although still in the primary stages, Mr. Masri said, the plan is to print a daily that would balance three major areas of interest, politics, economics and culture, all with the "highest standards of professionalism." Such an undertaking, the former prime minister admits, is a long and costly process, particularly since the investors agree that publishing a newspaper of distinction requires quality in material and human resources. The investors are apparently looking first to the success of the newspaper on the national front. If the response is positive, Mr. Masri said, they will consider distributing "across the river," i.e. the West Bank and Gaza.

Among the interested investors are Wasif Azer, a former director of the Jordan Phosphate Mines Corporation, now general manager of The Business Bank (a major investor in Al Ra'i daily), Ahmad Taher, a successful businessman, Awmi Saket, former chief of the Jordanian Contractors Association, and others.

**SHE'S BACK:** With all the talk of a potential increase in press activity in town (and perhaps also prices), in flew the JT's one-and-only Sa'eda Kilani from a six-month stint at The Charlotte Observer while on an Alfred Friendly Press Fellowship. Her editors were cautiously poised to see what soothing effect six-months in the good-ole-south would have on independent-minded, women's lib activist Kilani.

Soothing was the wrong word. Kilani returned in form much as she had left, except for the chic new coif and an imposing southern drawl. But on paper, we let her own words tell a bit of her U.S. experience and what she observed in U.S. journalistic values and practices. "The emphasis in any story or news item in my country," wrote Kilani, "is on 'personalities' rather than on 'individuals' or ordinary people as is the case here (the U.S.). Perhaps my colleagues and my editors would be willing to change this but, surprisingly enough, it might be the readers and the people themselves who would not accept such a change. Whether that is feasible or not, is not of great importance to me, frankly speaking. What is important is that I think I now have more guts and more confidence to write whatever stories I like — including so-called 'light' or 'fun' stories — and to defend them."

Welcome back, ba' 'etna Sa'eda, maybe now you could teach us a thing or two.

**LIFE'S PASSAGES:** As with all life's passages, some are sad, some happy. Last week the Arabic print media lost a newspaper pioneer with the passing of Sadiq Al Shanti. Born in 1909 in Jaffa, Mr. Shanti and his brother Ibrahim were founders of Al Difa' newspaper in the early part of this century. After 1948, Al Shanti began publishing Al Difa' in Egypt. There he also published Al Qahira (Cairo) until 1954. Mr. Shanti returned to Palestine to again publish Al Difa' until 1966, and following the 1967 war he published the daily from Amman until 1971. Mr. Shanti died in the U.S.

A wedding zaffa played for Al Ra'i reporter Issam Qadmani and his bride Dina Mbeidin last week. Issam met Dina while she was employed at the Ministry of Transportation. Dina now works for the National Aid Fund, and Issam has been writing on the transportation industry and related movements for the past four years. The rather conscientious couple took only a short honeymoon and reported back to work almost within a week of their nuptials.

**'TIS THE SEASON:** The holiday season brings on movement about town and out of town. U.S. Deputy Chief of Mission Robert Beecroft and his wife Mette, both former language academicians at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, were said to plan Christmas dinner in Amman then head north to Damascus for a New Year's Eve revelry. Ingrid Liedgens, first secretary at the German embassy is staying put. She has drawn up an eclectic guest list for her Weinachten party. And the Nabil and Hisham Theatre will close over the holidays as Nabil and Jackie Sawalha will join up in England with brother Nadim and his wife Bobby (who flew out of Amman Wednesday) for Christmas cheer and tales of sugar plum fairies with all the family. The theatre, which has recently started its Ah Salam, Ya Salam production in English, will be closed from Dec. 23-Jan. 11. Curtains up again on the night of Jan. 12.

Jennifer Hamarneh

Romania offers filmmakers quality at low cost

By Francoise Michel  
Agence France Presse

BUCHAREST — Dressed as dolls or coloured balls in a Disneyworld setting, the young Romanian girls wait patiently in the cold for their walk-on parts in a children's film which an Australian producer is making near here for the U.S. market.

"A set like that one would have cost a fortune in America," said the producer, Frank Arnold.

He is shooting episodes of the video series Josh Kirby Time Warrior at the studios of Castel Film in

suburban Bucharest, and expects Disney Channel to be interested when the film are released next March.

"Here there is no loss of quality," Arnold said. "To make a movie offshore is far more cost-efficient than in Hollywood where the costs are continuously rising. Here we can put more value on the screen."

The set with houses like mushrooms is the work of young Romanian designer Valentin Calinescu, who is a great admirer of Hollywood productions.

"I prefer to work on American films," he said.

"The Romanian cinema is too sad, too dark. We need fairy tales."

Arnold, who has made more than 100 films, remembered the day snow smothered the set, stopping filming.

"Everybody was working to get rid of the snow," he said. "I was really impressed, everybody realised we were in trouble. I don't know if it would have been the same in America." It took two hours to clear the snow.

It has been easy enough to find extras to put in 12-hour days for 10,000 lei (\$6). The average monthly

wage in Romania is about \$100.

Seven young American actors are playing the main roles, including the hero Josh Kirby. There are three Romanian actors, whose voices will be dubbed for U.S. viewing. Most of the technicians, the extras and the 70-strong dance troupe are Romanian.

Such "off-shore" filming meant savings of 25 to 30 per cent over Hollywood, said Castel Film's chief Vlad Paunescu.

His company has American capital, and works essentially for Paramount, specialising in films aimed

at young audiences. That is the most profitable sector of the American market, Paunescu said.

Romanian workmen were busy constructing a dummy spacecraft and orbital station. Elsewhere, there were the huts of an African village, the wooden houses of a town in the Far West, and the fuselage of an airplane, all souvenirs of the 25 films Castel has made since 1991.

Romania offers American producers a variety of countryside which is rare in central Europe, ranging from the Carpathian

Mountains to the banks of the River Danube.

The hills of Transylvania were the setting recently for a children's video Wee People set in Ireland.

Other Romanian filmmakers, who feel their output is more dignified, tend to look down on Castel Film, but Paunescu is sure he is helping to develop the local film industry.

"They will come round to appreciating us," he said confidently, thinking of the latest American technology his work is making available.

Thoughts for this week

A man is only as good as what he loves — Saul Bellow, Pulitzer Prize-winning American author (1915- ).

The clear-sighted do not rule the world, but they sustain and console it — Agnes Repplier, American essayist (1858-1950).

No failure, but low aim, is crime — James Russell Lowell, American editor and essayist (1819-1891).

Injustice is relatively easy to bear; what stings is justice — H.L. Menckan, American journalist, writer and editor (1880-1956).

If we would only give, just once, the same amount of reflection to what we want to get out of life that we give to the question of what to do with a two-week vacation, we would be startled at our false standards and the aimless procession of our busy days — Dorothy Canfield Fisher, American author and essayist (1879-1958).



## A time to buy...

By Jean-Claude Elias

Whether a personal affair or a business acquisition, the purchase of a new computer, as for any other equipment, is rarely done without careful study and thinking. The decision may be quick or it can take some time, but it is never without a certain amount of analysis, comparison and evaluation.

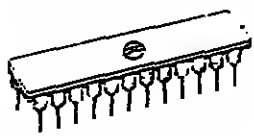
Whatever the purpose, one expects to make a good buy. Getting the most for one's money is everybody's concern. Is the machine up-to-date? How long will it last? For how much could one hope to re-sell it after a three or four years? While these questions are relatively easy to answer for "normal" hardware like a car, a TV set or a refrigerator, computers completely elude the system.

The speed of change in PCs (personal computers) technical characteristics and the continuous, astounding drop in prices make forecasts difficult. A drastic depressing, but so very realistic attitude would be to think of the machines as being completely disposable in four years from the purchase. A friend was recently offered the humiliating sum of JD 50 for his 286 PC, of which he was proud and which used to be considered a "powerful" machine only six or seven years ago.

Those who try to follow the PC market on both the technical and the financial levels, often ask themselves: "Is it the right time to buy?" "Should I wait until prices go down further?" "A new disk with a bigger capacity, or a new type of monitor is going to be released soon, maybe I should wait." With such an attitude one may as well wait for ever.

Instead of thinking how much one could have by waiting, it would make more sense to consider how much could one lose by postponing the purchase. PCs are production tools, provided, naturally, they are efficiently used. Work done on PCs is invaluable. In businesses, questions about the feasibility of using computers are not asked anymore. Even at home, the importance of being computer literate now outweighs any other consideration. The more one waits and the more one loses in terms of business,

## chip talk



missed opportunities, experience, computer awareness, and so on.

Prices will keep falling and nobody can see the end of it for the time being. Hardware will keep changing, improving. I personally have had to replace my hard disk at some three times this year. From 250 MB (megabytes or million characters) in January, up to 520 MB in August and finally 1 GB (one gigabyte or one billion bytes) this December.

To put it simply: The best time to buy a PC or any PC-related product is now. Therefore if any questions are left to resolve, it shouldn't be about when to buy but rather what to buy and how much to spend. One should also be prepared to re-invest, on a yearly basis, the equivalent of about 25 per cent of the initial purchase value, in order to upgrade a PC and keep it up-to-date. This doesn't include brand new, additional products or special options.

Such a somewhat sad state of affairs, doesn't worry businesses too much for they usually consider that the machines are money generating. In the worst case, their office equipment is legally depreciated over a five-year period. As for private, home users, those who do not buy PCs for direct profit making, many of them now think of optimising their investment — or reducing their expenditure if one prefers — by offering limited but paid services, in order to help them maintain their computer system "alive." They usually propose to do printouts for friends, process mailing lists for small companies or maintain small data bases for anyone who may need it. A wise way of making the PC support itself.

## Happiness is being a small white fish in the dark

By Samer Ghaleb Bagaeen

I was listening the other day to one of those radio wildlife programmes which, given a chance, actually leave you better informed. This one featured several men chatting in a cave about some white, eyeless fish-like creature which tends to lurk in watery pockets in the dark corners of caves. It was some casual phrase like "this little animal has been here since the age of the dinosaurs and has survived quite unchanged" which caught my ear. Apparently, it does not need light and does not need anything else much either, except water and enough nutrient in the scummy film on top of the water. It has survived for millions of years without ever doing any of those things that separate human beings from other animals, such as singing carols at Christmas, playing chess, going outdoors and pretending that going to discos is fun, or indeed, without doing anything much.

A simple life, you might think. Not so, said one of the experts. This is one of the most specialised animals he had ever come across. It was then that I suddenly realised that this eyeless white fish's speciality was just that: Being an eyeless white fish.

It was perfectly adapted to its surroundings. Being in the dark no longer bothered it. It had all the food it wanted. All the liquid. It seemed to have no enemies. It had no ambitions to have things it could not have. It was not happy, but presumably it had no concept of happiness and therefore did not mind not being happy, which is as close as you can get to being happy for an eyeless white fish.

This was a species that had evolved as far as it

needed or wanted to go and had refused all improvement grants since the day the dinosaurs had disappeared. By comparison with it, human beings are very unspecialised. We do lots of things and we do most of them badly, and the few that we do well (singing carols at Christmas, ice dancing, inventing ways of recording sound, combating hair loss) are either not worth doing or somewhat outside the demands of evolution.

Anyway, a day or two later I found myself watching a French programme on television in which I learnt that "every day 1,600,000 vehicles enter Paris. There are only 1,300,000 parking spaces in Paris."

What does this tell us about the white eyeless fish, as compared to man? The white eyeless fish would be way out ahead. It has achieved everything it set out to do, as far as cave dwelling is concerned. It has never known a parking problem. Man, on the other hand, is creating problems the further he progresses. Through over-population, pollution and idleness, he is managing to affect all advances he has made. He invents cooking and then litters the world with McDonald's restaurants.

We are told that global warming has resumed and we may be on the way to messing up the planet terminally, not just for humans, but for every living species. Human beings have turned out to be very good at having fun, but not at clearing up after themselves, or conserving the environment, which means that all forms of life will be doomed. Except, probably, for that white eyeless fish down in the caves. While everything disappears quietly upstairs, it will be, without knowing it, the most intelligent form of life left alive.

## ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

By Mohammad A. Shuqair

## STRANGE BUT TRUE

- ★ If a man's weight is 72 kg on earth, it becomes 18 kg at a height of 6,400 km, but on the moon he weighs 12 kg only.
- ★ Saturn 5 rockets which were chiefly built for lunar travels, are 110 metres long.
- ★ In Melbourne, Australia, a dog called "Lal" had been trained to perform jobs such as playing certain tunes, barking and producing words like "Hello" and "No". If given letters, it would rearrange them in a way so as to form its own name.
- ★ There are more than 300 kinds of ice-cream sold at various world markets.
- ★ Some rivers run underground. There is, for example, a river under the Nile that carries 12 times the quantity of water the Nile river would carry.

★★★★★

## LET'S CHAT IN ARABIC

- You must learn Arabic, musn't you?  
Yajib ann tata'allam al-loghal arabiya, alysa kazalek?
- Yes. It's the language of the Glorious Qur'an.  
Na'am, innaha loghatul Qur'anil majeed.
- Is there a watchmaker in this street?  
Hal yoojad sa'aati fee haza ash'shari?
- Yes, there is one on the left side of that store.  
Na'am, bonaka waahidon alal janibil aysar lizalikal makh'zan.
- Will you direct me to this address?  
Hal laka ann tor'shidani ala hazal oowan?
- With pleasure, sir.  
Bekolli soroor, ya sayeedi.
- Where do you wish to go?  
Ayna torood ann taz'bah?
- To the royal palaces.  
Elal qusoor al-malakiya.
- Call a taxi and tell the driver to wait.  
Otlob taxi wa qollis-sa'iq ann yantazir.
- Do you want more?  
Hal toroodol mazeded?
- No, thanks. That's quite enough.  
La, shukran, haza yakfi.
- Can you tell me where I can find a good restaurant?  
Hal yominka ann tokh'birani ayna astati'ann ajida mat'aman jay'yedan?
- In the heart of the city.  
Fee qalbil madeena.

★★★★★

## INVITATION TO LAUGHTER

- ★ A photographer's fair wife gave birth to a black baby. Stunned by the news, the husband cried: "What a devil: I haven't given it enough light."

★★★★★

- ★ LADY: "I have lost my dog today, officer OFFICER: "It isn't my business. I recommend you to advertise in the newspapers."

LADY: "Advertise in the papers? My dog doesn't read or write."

★★★★★

- ★ — ".....But I love you so much, I adore you and wish you could accept my proposal for marriage."
- "How can you prove you really love me?"
- "I'll drive myself into the fire for your sake, throw myself in the midst of water and hurriedly climb the ladder to..."

— (interrupting): "That's enough. It's nonsense. I don't want to marry a fireman!"

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- ★ SHE: "Do you know why God created Adam before Eve?"
- HE: "To give him the chance to speak a little before she comes."

★★★★★

## BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

1. Give two different meanings for the following words:
  - a- QUACK
  - b- PLIGHT
  - c- SOW
  - d- STALE
  - e- NEAT
2. What are these instruments used for? — Stethoscope, lactometer, scalpel, calorimeter, sextant.
3. Provide the necessary information by completing these sentences:
  - a) The kangaroo is an animal known by its long .....
  - b) Slavery in America was abolished by .....
  - c) Napoleon was finally defeated at .....
  - d) The lightest metal is .....
  - e) John F. Kennedy was ..... in Dallas by a gunman called .....

★★★★★

4. Why do we say "goodbye"?
5. What words contain all the vowels?

★★★★★

## PUZZLES

- (A) SOLVE-A-PROBLEM: If  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a certain number is  $\frac{5}{2}$  greater than  $\frac{3}{4}$  of that same number. What is that certain number?

★★★★★

- (B) THE NUMBERS GAME: Can you insert the missing numbers to make these equations correct?

	X		÷		= 3
X		+		+	
	X		÷		= 4
÷		÷		-	
	X		-		= 5
= 3		= 5		= 8	

## JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, Dec. 15

7:30 N.B.A.

8:30 Road To Avonlea

9:10 Tequila And Bonetti

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film

12:00 The Investigator

A couple of tricksters is pursued by the police after being charged with robbery.

Friday, Dec. 16

7:30 Hollywood Stuntmakers

8:00 African Skies

8:30 You Bet Your Life

9:00 P.M. Magazine

9:30 Heart Of Courage

10:00 News In English

10:20 Blanche

Blanche comes to odds with the widespread corruption between the church and the land authorities as she attempts to provide settlers with proper medical care.

Saturday, Dec. 17

7:30 Harry And The Hendersons

8:00 Innovation

Educational Programme

An educational programme on the four mathematical dimensions. The programme also highlights how much computers are instrumental in realising the fourth dimension.

8:30 Quantum Leap

9:10 Murder She Wrote

Who Killed JB Fletcher

Several crimes occur after a woman connives at her lover's attempts to achieve illegally material gains.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film — Fire Storm

Starring: Levan Burton &amp; Jill Clayburgh

A considerable loss in lives and property occurs as a result of a big fire which breaks out in Oakland.

12:00 Major Dad

Sunday, Dec. 18

7:30 McHale's Navy

Purple Heart For Gurber

After they claim to have sunk a Japanese submarine in the Pacific Ocean, the Marines are assigned to go there again to sink another one.

8:00 The Album Show

8:30 Quantum Leap

9:10 Galactica

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film — Foreign Affairs

Starring: Joanne Woodward &amp; Brian Dennehy

The film is an entertaining and touching love story of a quiet and reserved college professor and an outspoken and uneducated peasant who, despite being perfect opposites, ultimately learn how to attract.

12:00 The Upper Hand

Monday, Dec. 19

7:30 Black Beauty

8:00 Boogies Diner

Home Sweet Home

A homeless woman receives support despite having secretly used the store as a night shelter.

8:30 Quantum Leap

9:10 Shades Of L.A.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Grushko

With scant resources and a little respect from a cynical public, General Grushko attempts to track down a crime gang dealing in nuclear contaminated meat.

Tuesday, Dec. 20

7:30 F.B.I.: The Untold Stories

8:00 Guide To The Universe

8:30 Quantum Leap

9:10 Cracking The Code

Freedom In The Genes

Is behaviour inherited? This programme explains why man is largely his own master with the aid of the world's largest gathering of twins, English sheepdogs and trained flies.

10:00 News In English

10:20 First Circle

As a result of the attempted treason which was uncovered, Stalin orders two imprisoned scientists to invent a new system for deciphering codes.

Wednesday, Dec. 21

7:30 Home Improvement

Wild Kingdom

Tim pretends he doesn't fear snakes after he finds one in his house.

8:00 Life In The Freer

The Race To Breus

The programme is a view on some microscopic animals which, though frozen in winter, melt, feed, and breed during a brief period of 24-hour daylight.

8:30 Quantum Leap

9:10 Law And Order

Forgiveness

The police investigates the murder of a girl who was severely beaten on the head.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Snowy River

Fathers And Sons

Matt aided by his son Robbie attempts to regain horses previously stolen from the stockade.

11:10 Coming Of Age



## Women as hostages to political expedience

### Gender And National Identity: Women And Politics In Muslim Societies

Edited by Valentine M. Moghadam  
published for the United Nations University/  
World Institute for Development Economics  
Research by Zed Books Ltd., London and New  
Jersey, 1994, 169 pages, \$19.95.

Why is it that women who enthusiastically join in a national liberation struggle later find their rights curtailed after independence? Why do societies that isolate themselves often segregate the sexes as well? How is it that women's role may be marginalised at the very moment it is the subject of vigorous public debate?

These are some of the questions addressed by the six women who contributed essays to *Gender and National Identity*. They explore how women's role intersects with the dynamics of nationalism, modernisation, revolution, state-building and Islamisation in Algeria, Bangladesh, Iran, Afghanistan and Palestine. Several of the authors argue that women's status is central to a revolutionary society's self-definition.

The clearest examples of this hypothesis are found in the essays on Iran and Afghanistan, written by Nayerreh Tohid and Valentine M. Moghadam, respectively. In 1978, when Afghans began fleeing into Pakistan, the main reason they gave for leaving was desire to escape the universal literacy programme of the revolutionary government in Kabul. Literacy classes entailed women appearing in public, and this challenged the mixture of tribal custom and Islam adhered to by rural Afghans. Thus, from the start, women's status was central to the conflict between the governing party and the Mujahedeen opposition. Later, when the Kabul government tried to appease the Mujahedeen for the sake of national reconciliation, programmes for women's advancement were dropped. One might add that this was to no avail: Kabul eventually fell to the Mujahedeen whose first order was to enforce the veiling of women.

Why is female behaviour deemed so crucial? The authors concur that this is more a question of power

relations than of Islamic doctrine. Control over women is often justified by contending that they are a potential source of social disorder or, alternately, that they must raise the next generation. Maintaining traditions, including strict norms for women's behaviour, serves to strengthen men's identity and ability to resist external pressures, whether these arise from the economic system or the demands of engaging in battle. He faces the world armoured by the guarantee of domestic stability. In societies where the nation or state is projected as an extension of the family, the same mechanism may be employed by political forces on a national basis to promote their aims.

Besides, there is the obvious economic motivation. In many cases, men drive profit by selling products, such as carpets, made by unpaid female family members: "collective male interests dictate strict control of 'female labour'" (p. 85).

In Afghanistan, patriarchal tribes have historically been stronger than the state, and Islam served as the unifying ideology for the opposition in the absence of concepts of nationalism. Islam also emerged as the banner of the Iranian opposition, but for somewhat different reasons.

Under the shah, modernisation was largely induced by the penetration of Western capital and technology, while change was decreed from above, as when the police enforced the unveiling of women in 1963. This gave rise to new conflicts, for popular culture inevitably lagged behind the abrupt transformations, leaving the majority of the people unequipped to deal with the new economic conditions and breakdown of old social patterns.

In this context, joining the Islamic movement was an act of self-defence, a search for identity. Women with a modern life style were viewed as having been corrupted by the West and the shah regime; their behaviour was blamed for the social ills associated with modernisation. The Islamic movement advocated domesticating women to solve the crisis, and much of the anti-shah opposition downplayed the question of women's rights.

Yet, the women's question continued to be pivotal even after the victory of the Islamic Revolution. A

review of developments shows that pressure on women to wear the hijab eases when the authorities feel their power is secure, only to be tightened when they face a crisis.

In both Iran and Afghanistan, "women became hostage in the conflict between the security and legitimacy of tradition and the aspiration for full human dignity and liberation" (p. 127). The term "hostage" applies equally to women in Algeria, and the inclusion of two essays on this country gives *Gender And National Identity* added current relevance.

Algeria has long been a standard reference in feminist discourse as to what should not happen to women in the post-independence stage. Pertinent to this discussion is Cherifa Bouatta's frank interview with two women who were militants in the national liberation struggle. Though Frantz Fanon predicted that the war would shake patriarchal family structures, the interview reveals that neither woman was motivated to join the FLN by special female concerns. Rather both identified with the collective goals of their people. They went far beyond traditional roles in the pursuit of these national aims, but this was related to the demands of the exceptional war situation. No attempt was made by the post-independence government to preserve the revolutionary women's role other than as an image.

Today these women look back with nostalgia at the mutual respect and relative equality that existed between men and women in the liberation struggle. They are bitter about subsequent developments, and one of them attributes female support to the FIS to the fact that the government has done nothing to improve women's situation.

Now, even the image of the Moudjahidates — women strugglers — is under attack. Due to popular sentiment, the FIS dares not directly attack Algeria's heritage of national liberation. Instead, it targets the weakest link, trying to erase the symbol of the women who fought for her country. "Hence, the Moudjahidates are the reference for the women taking part today in a modern project of feminine liberation, in opposition to the project of the Islamist

movement" (p. 36).

In the other selection on Algeria, Doria Cherifati-Merabine provides historical background pertinent to why women are central to the contest over which direction society should take. Colonisation nearly destroyed Algeria. In self-defence, Algerians "took refuge in tradition and custom. In trying to cut women off from Western civilisation, they aimed to preserve the integrity of their society" (p. 42). This is part of the reason why the FLN did not challenge tradition concerning women's role, especially after the battle was won and it came to power.

Moghadam notes in her introduction: "It is in the context of economic crisis and social disparities that Islamist movements have emerged and spread, calling for the domestication of women as the solution to the crisis" (p. 9). This angle was echoed by Algeria's representative to the women's forum of the regional preparatory meeting of Arab women recently held in Amman. Saidi Ben Habyas reported that FIS leader Abbas Madani has proposed "sending women home" as the solution to Algeria's 33 per cent unemployment rate. (Jordan Times, Nov. 13).

In the concluding essay of the book, Nahla Abdo gives a thoughtful examination of women's situation in relation to the Palestinian quest for national liberation. She notes that women's interests have more than once been sacrificed on the altar of nationalism. They have been asked to bear many children in order to win the demographic battle with Zionism, regardless of the costs to their health and well-being. More recently, they were asked to acquiesce to the demand of Hamas that they wear hijab, in order to secure unity against the occupation.

Today, the new Palestinian National Authority is at odds with both the Islamic movement and large portions of its own democratic constituency. This situation, like the conditions prevailing in the aforementioned countries, calls for re-examination of the relation between national struggle, social change, religion and state power. *Gender And National Identity* gives no simple answers to the questions it raises, but it may serve as a useful guide to critical reassessment.

Sally Bland

## Unity and partition

### The General In His Labyrinth

By Gabriel Garcia Marquez

For those of us who read Gabriel Garcia Marquez's magnificent *One Hundred Years Of Solitude* soon after it appeared, *The General In His Labyrinth* (1989) is a subtle surprise. At first glance, the book doesn't seem to march along with the others in Marquez's arsenal. For one thing, it is semi-fictional, recreating the extraordinary context of General Simon Bolivar's last year of life, and for another, it skirts the surreal which is so much part of Marquez's other works. And yet, for those familiar with the author's political convictions, *The General In His Labyrinth* is an epic tour de force that is informed by the nationalistic sensibilities of a man who obviously still believes in the cultural, and perhaps even geographical unity of the Latin American continent, even while living in Mexican exile.

The book traces the trajectory of the near-legendary 19th-century general, Simon Bolivar, "The Liberator" who fought for close to 20 years to establish an independent and united country in what is now Latin America, only to see his monumental work torn apart in his own lifetime by a number of squabbling fellow generals, and a surge of localistic, parochial fervour that favoured partition over unity. Although principally concerned with the last months of Bolivar's life, and the agonies of exile and impending death, Marquez's book is also a harrowing depiction of deceit and betrayal. In a postscript to his work, Marquez describes how he pieced together Bolivar's last journey, even now little-known in the general's country of birth, Venezuela, by enlisting

the help of numerous biographers, historians, diplomats, linguists and at least one typesetter. He calls the events in the book "a horror", and indeed they are. Here was a man who was born into the wealthy, land-owning Creole aristocracy of Spanish America, whose youth was spent trying to imitate and duplicate the Napoleonic spirit of Europe and to soak up as much of French and British culture as possible; who, nevertheless, gave up his life of ease to fight the Spanish occupier; and to forge an independent, economically viable country out of the Spanish colonies in the Americas, only to see it founder on the shoals of petty politics and narrow self-interest.

### BOOK REVIEW

Many times elected as president of the republic when the country was in danger, he was to die reviled by most of the populace that he had sought to free, alone and in exile, with only a small band of followers at his side.

Marquez's skillful, full-bodied description of the general's character, intermixed with snatches of his real-life conversations and literary communications exposes the man's callousness, bravery and immense humanity all at the same time. Bolivar was a highly-regarded general and a magnanimous statesman; he forgave most of his enemies (but one) and he was incorruptible, strictly accounting for every cent in the public treasury. And yet he was known to be vulgar in speech, pitiless in combat and frequently

unfair to his most loyal servants and aides-de-camp. Marquez's fleshed-out characterisation captures the man's human foibles without falling into melodrama; and his evocation of the tropics, its lush vegetation and its debilitating heat, provides a languid backdrop to the general's tormented last journey.

Having said that, the author's single-minded focus on the last, traumatic period of Bolivar's life relegates to oblivion a central question of Latin American, indeed of all southern independence movements, which is: Could national unity have prevailed in the first place? Here, a historical survey of Latin America at the time of Bolivar is important. The point, according to Benedict Anderson's *Imagined Communities* (1983), is that while Bolivar and others in the Creole aristocracy may have shared a number of cultural affinities with the Spanish metropolis in Madrid, they were denied social and economic mobility. Because they were born in the colonies and not in the mother country, they were confined to their American plantations and denied a chance to shine in Spain, even though they were of Spanish origins. Largely as a result of limited opportunities in the Spanish empire, hostility to Madrid spread among the Creole land-owning class in Venezuela, Ecuador, Mexico and Peru, which contributed to the birth of an American identity. Banding together with others of their class (whether landowners or merchants), the Creole leadership reached out to the mass of peasants of African and Indian origins (who had been excluded at first) and began the first revolutions in Spanish America.

But why did the revolutions fail to create a united America? Anderson believes that, from the very

first, Creole revolutionaries identified only with a certain local identity, which emanated from the Spanish territorial and administrative units that formed the basis for what would later become Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay and Bolivia. These geographical-administrative units became economic zones under Madrid's commercial tutelage, thus reinforcing the "natural" ties of contiguity and administrative contact. Moreover, while local newspapers did appear in the Spanish Americas, they were themselves a product of a provincial consciousness that did not reflect American-wide concerns. Unlike the Thirteen Colonies of Northern America (which later would become the United States), Spanish American colonies exhibited the same interests, and spoke with one voice only under the short Presidency of Simon Bolivar's Gran Colombia (Venezuela, New Granada and Ecuador).

However, all these issues do not directly concern Gabriel Garcia Marquez. Nor should they, for Marquez is ultimately writing an eulogy for a man and a movement which once held great promise, and died too soon. For him, the sheer pathos of Bolivar's last days, and the tragedy of his death are the stuff of which legends are made. His harrowing depiction of the prematurely aged Bolivar forms the core of a work of stunning originality, insight and compassion, and brings the reader face to face with issues that permeate all cultures throughout history.

Dr. Hala Fattah

## Marriage fever grips Hanoi

HANOI (AFP) — Cold nights are here, and so is the season of love.

Thousands of young northern Vietnamese are tying the knot during the traditional winter marriage frenzy, when festive banquets and wedding motorcades are a daily sight in Hanoi.

Unlike in the southern regions, young northerners consider the cool months of November to February the best season in which to get hitched.

Couples choose wedding dates months in advance after consulting fortune-tellers, a practice demanded by tradition and now tolerated by the Socialist authorities.

Wealthy families, enjoying the country's conversion to a market economy, spend on average about 20 million dong (\$2,000) for a wedding.

Those who are less wealthy can blow around eight million dong (\$800) on a wedding — a sum that is still equal to three or four years' salary for the average government worker.

Many weddings, and the banquets that follow, are sumptuous affairs that

plunge the newlyweds into debt even before their honeymoon. Some couples celebrate by throwing feasts spread over two days with as many as 250 guests.

But such extravagance can backfire and lead overworked, debt-burdened couples to seek divorce.

Hanoi's wealthy go to great lengths to display their money during the marriage season, which is punctuated by celebrations such as Christmas and the Lunar New Year, known locally as Tet.

While authorities are now less likely to question a family's wealth and ability to stage a marriage extravaganza, the local press has called on young people to keep their weddings "simple, modest and economical" and not "contrary to Socialist morality."

But Hanoi residents are no longer surprised to see convoys of luxury cars, escorted by dozens of mopeds, fetching the bride at her parents' home, causing traffic jams and making noise in Hanoi's major arteries. The number of wed-

dings in Hanoi swells to several dozen per day during the "lucky days" designated by the lunar calendar.

"I hope that my wedding will be as solemn and happy as possible, because it will happen only once in my life," said Tran Thi Thu, a 19-year-old aspiring bride, who admitted knowing little about conjugal intimacy, a delicate subject here.

The virginity of young women is no longer considered these days in Hanoi as proof of morality as in the past, but remains nevertheless valued in the tradition-bound countryside.

Of the 6,000 couples who wed annually in Hanoi, around 10 per cent will eventually divorce, according to official estimates from the Centre for Women's Studies in Vietnam.

Men marry in general between the ages of 25 to 30 years, compared with 22 to 25 for women. Women who have reached 30 find it difficult to find husbands in a society where the number of potential partners has been slashed by three de-

cades of war. Weddings can be held in the homes of the couple's families or in a hotel after having carried out the registration formalities with the local people's committee.

The law sets the minimum marrying age at 20 for men and 18 for women, although there are people who marry younger without being sanctioned by local authorities, especially in rural areas where the tradition of pre-arranged marriages remains strong. During the "tea ceremony," each guest offers the couple an envelope which contains anything from 20,000 to 30,000 dong (\$2 to \$3), and up to 100,000 dong (\$10) at a large banquet.

The size of the present is related to the scale of the party, and may represent up to a third of a civil servant's average salary.

"In one day, I received three invitations, but I had to turn them down for lack of money," said a mother, Tran Ngoc Trinh, a pensioner who does not go out these days, explaining that her income does not allow for such expenses.

## Japanese debate what's in a name

By Makiko Tazaki  
Agence France Presse

TOKYO — Traditional values are standing in the way of Japanese women's attempts to clear the next hurdle toward sexual equality by obtaining the right to keep their original names after marriage.

A recent government survey found that as many as 53.4 per cent of those surveyed opposed a proposed legal revision that allows married couples to have different surnames. They said they believed a shared surname helps unite a family.

"Having the same name will help increase the feeling of oneness in a family," one of the opponents was quoted as saying in the report issued by the prime minister's office late November.

The results of the latest survey, which found that only 27.4 per cent approved changing the law, turned out to be far more conservative than private surveys conducted earlier.

A survey in September by the Asahi newspaper

bad shown that more than 60 per cent of those questioned favoured, or could tolerate, different surnames for spouses.

"The difference was because of the way questions were put. People think it's okay for others, but not for themselves," said Fumiko Sakakibara, a lawyer who has been campaigning for the legal revision for nearly 10 years.

"Anyway, what matters is the opinion of young people, those who will get married in the future," Ms. Sakakibara said, noting that even in the government poll, more than 40 per cent of respondents in their 20s supported the idea of allowing a wife to keep her maiden name.

"There will be no setback," she stressed, explaining that Japan could not backpedal from going ahead with the legal revision because it had pledged to the United Nations to work on it as part of efforts to lift women's status.

"Support to the separate-name system has risen rapidly in the past several years. The momentum for the change

is very strong," she said. Calls for the legal revision increased as feminist values slowly filtered into the largely patriarchal society.

The current law, introduced nearly half a century ago, carries a mask of equality. It says a couple can adopt either the husband's or the wife's name. But in reality, wives are the ones who change their names in nearly 98 per cent of marriages.

Many women complain that they feel they are just being absorbed into their husbands' families when they change names. But feminist principles are not the only reasons for mounting calls for the change. The current system often creates inconveniences for working women who have had successful careers under their maiden names.

In the not-so-distant past, most women quit jobs when they got married. But this has changed, and more and more women have chosen to continue working after marriage, particularly after the introduction of the 1986 law ensuring equal opportunities in employ-

ment. A number of married working women are now using two names — the maiden name at work and the husband's name for official papers and for private matters.

"I've been using my maiden name at work since I got married more than 10 years ago," said Yoko Mimuro, an editor at a major Tokyo publisher.

"I was known by my maiden name and wanted keep it that way. Many women in this business use their maiden names," she said.

Ms. Mimuro said the introduction of the use of different surnames for spouses would be "a good idea" if the problem of what to do about the children's names could be resolved.

Lawyers said they expect the change to be introduced within two years as part of a sweeping revision of marriage laws. In most countries in Asia, including China, Taiwan and Singapore, married women have the right to keep their original names.



## New drugs may help asthma sufferers

By Ben Hirschler  
Reuter

LONDON — Asthma is on the rise worldwide, aggravated by growing air pollution and allergies.

There is no true cure for this most common chronic condition, affecting an estimated three to five per cent of people, but a clutch of new drugs are now in development which doctors believe may improve treatment.

At present asthma is treated mainly with bronchodilators to relieve airway constriction, and increasingly with inhaled steroids which tackle the underlying inflammation of the bronchial tubes which causes asthma.

But while steroids are effective, worries remain about their possible side effects. Last month, a

2,000 signature petition was presented to the British government urging a no-fault compensation scheme amid claims about the drugs.

Dr. Neil Thomson, an asthma expert at Glasgow's Western Infirmary, says there is no evidence that low-dose inhaled steroids are harmful. But it is not clear just where the safe limit lies.

For the last decade, the hunt has been on for alternatives. Now the first new drugs are nearing the market.

Their common goal is to target specific inflammation "mediators". Steroids, by contrast, suppress virtually every step of the inflammatory process, making them rather blunt pharmacological tools.

The companies making the new compounds — which can be swallowed as

pills rather than inhaled — hope they will cut the need for steroids in mild to moderate asthma patients, who make up the bulk of sufferers.

First to reach the market will be a group of drugs which inhibit production of leukotrienes, naturally-occurring substances implicated in causing inflammation.

U.S.-based Abbott Laboratories' 5-lipoxygenase inhibitor, Zileuton, filed for regulatory approval in September, does this by blocking the biosynthesis of leukotrienes.

The British Zeneca Group, meanwhile, has a different drug — selective leukotriene D<sub>4</sub> antagonist, called Accolate — which is due for filing early in 1995.

Both drugs could be approved in 1996, pharmaceutical analysts be-

lieve, but Accolate may have an advantage since it will be offered in a low dose regime of just one tablet a day, against three a day for Zileuton.

A follow-up compound from Smithkline Beecham (SB) called Panlucast is a year behind Accolate in development in the U.S. and Europe, although it has already been filed for approval in Japan by SB's partner Ono Pharmaceuticals.

Further off, several firms including Rhone-Poulenc Rorer, Smithkline and Syntex are working on selective phosphodiesterase (PDE4) inhibitors, regarded by many researchers as the most promising new anti-asthma drug class.

The most advanced oral PDE4 is made by the British biotechnology com-

pany Celltech Group and goes under the code-name CDP-840. It is being developed with Merck and Co and is now in phase II clinical trials.

Other drugs focusing on different mediators include platelet activating factor (PAF) antagonists, such as British Biotech's Lexipant, being developed with Glaxo, and thromboxane antagonists, like Bayer's Bay-U-3405.

Another class of compounds, still at the research stage in several companies' portfolios, are potassium channel activators.

Thomson says it has yet to be proved whether any of these drugs will consistently outperform inhaled steroids across a broad range of patients. As a result, he sees them supplementing rather than re-

placing steroids — at least initially.

"Steroids are a tough nut to crack. They work very well and in normal doses they don't have serious side effects," he said.

But as understanding of asthma improves, Thomson believes treatments will be more tailored to individual needs which could well involve using different drugs or combinations of drugs.

The prize for companies is a slice of a fast-growing market. This year global sales of asthma drugs are expected to rise by at least 10 per cent — somewhat less than in recent years, but still twice the rate of the drugs market as a whole.

Swedish drugmaker AB Astra estimates global asthma drug sales will be worth \$5.8 billion in 1994.

## Changing role for nurses in Africa

By Rebecca Dodd

LONDON — As the AIDS epidemic advances, huge numbers of young people — usually the healthiest age group — are falling ill and health services in the developing world, already stretched to the limit, face a crisis.

Most countries have said that they will not be able to take care of everyone with AIDS. Instead, many are opting for a system of "home-based" or community care.

Initially seen as a way of spreading thin resources further, the system has revolutionised the role of nurses and, succeeding where many prevention programmes have failed, is helping to change attitudes towards HIV and AIDS in small communities.

In Tanzania, which has an annual per capita health budget of less than \$5, AIDS has passed malaria as the leading cause of death in adults. To cope with the new burden, hospitals are sending home people with AIDS to be cared for by their families. Nurses who pay regular visits have found that the patient and family often need much more than just medical care.

AIDS still carries a great stigma and many families are either unwilling to or unable to care for people with the illness. Nurses play a crucial role in helping families, and their neighbours, to overcome their fears and pre-

judices. Some families do not know that patients are coming home or indeed that they had AIDS at all, until the patients are discharged into their care. One nurse from Zimbabwe recalls that during her home visits, families often invite her to eat with them. Then want to see if it is safe, as she has told them, to share food with AIDS sufferers.

As AIDS usually strikes those in their most productive years, the families' main needs are often economic. When the chief breadwinner becomes too sick to work, nurses might link families with charities or development groups willing to help out with school fees, credit and finding alternative sources of income.

For most nurses this is a natural and essential extension of their work. Poverty, they say, has a direct impact on health. If a family lacks access to water and proper sanitation, the home is more likely to harbour infection such as TB. If food is scarce, the patient will get weaker.

Home-based care also helps to prevent further spread of HIV. Regular home visits give nurses the opportunity to promote safe-sex messages to patients, families and friends. And having an AIDS sufferer in the community provides the next generation with direct evidence of the consequences of not heeding that message — Panos features.

## Sordid drugs tale pulls no punches

By Charles Whelan  
Agence France Presse

PARIS — In the same week that 11 top Chinese competitors were condemned as drug cheats, a sordid little movie opened here.

Dernier Stade may not be the greatest movie of its genre, as one French film critic claimed, but film-maker Christian Zerbib pulls no punches. The only unconvincing part is the final disclaimer: "Any connection with real life is unintentional."

Cut to the action: A parody of the Marseillaise plays as Catherine Delauney, 800 metres champion of France, inserts a pouch of "clean" urine into her vagina to enable her to pass a random dope test.

In the next scene Delauney weeps with joy as the Marseillaise blares out and she is crowned European champion.

Zerbib's low-budget film depicts the destruction of sports by drugs with the collusion of top athletics officials and sponsors.

Money is the root of all evil here. Delauney is champion and French record holder, thanks to drugs. She gets a house, car and cash from her sponsor, one of France's biggest banks.

"Break your own record, we double the money," the bank says. "Win the European Championship and we pour it all over you."

Delauney, played by Anne Richard, undergoes a regime of doping which broadly reflects current practice in athletics and includes male hormone injections, masking agents, blood doping and even pregnancy, the most natural way to boost hormone levels and oxygen retention.

According to the French Sports Ministry,

some 8,000 dope tests were carried out on French athletes last year, 160 or 1.6 per cent of them positive. Drug abuse was prevalent throughout athletics for international level down to the most modest provincial competition.

But Zerbib's inspiration for the film was not France. On April 9, 1987, East Germany heptathlete Birgit Dressler complained of a pain in her back. The following day she was dead — victim of an ambitious coach, an unscrupulous doctor, and a lethal cocktail of drugs. Dressler was 26 and in one season — her last — rose 100 places in the world rankings.

"I wanted to know why what woman died," said Zerbib. "The tale is all too familiar."

The film follows one season in the life of a top French athlete. At the start Delauney is beaten in the French Cham-

ionships by a runner on drugs. She vows revenge, finds her ambitious coach and unscrupulous doctor, and never has to lose again.

France has yet to have its Ben Johnson scandal, or a collective slap in the face like the Chinese, but the film has touched a raw nerve in the Sports Ministry and the Athletics Federation.

The French have long looked down from the moral high ground at drug scandals elsewhere, notably in the United States, the former Soviet Bloc, and Britain.

Not any more. Zerbib's film opened the day after publication of a new report in drug abuse in teenage sport.

Two sports medicine specialists polled 2,423 high school students in southern France and found nearly 10 per cent would take performance-enhancing drugs and one

in 50 were already doing so.

"They know it goes on at the highest levels in sports, so they think 'why not,'" said Philippe Turbabin, one of the specialists.

A Sports Ministry spokesman described the findings as shocking and said: "The risk is that there will be a drug-abuse explosion and we will get into the situation described in Dernier Stade."

But according to athletes themselves,

France is already there. Dernier Stade, itself a play on words which could translate as "The End of The Road," does not go far enough.

To depict the protagonist, Anne Richard had to train for three years under top French coaches, competing alongside athletes in international events.

"The athletes thanked us for doing the movie," she said. "They were only sorry it didn't show how bad things really are."

## 'AIDS vaccine could be in wide use by 2000'

PARIS (AFP) — An effective vaccine against the AIDS virus HIV could be in widespread use in developing countries by the end of the decade if tests prove conclusive, an expert on the pandemic said Wednesday.

Professor Lars Kallings, secretary-general of the International AIDS Society, said that if tests due to be carried out over the next few years give good results, vaccine programmes could be launched in developing countries before the year 2000.

"That is at best, if everything turns out well," Prof. Kallings told AFP in the sidelines of a one-day scientific conference on the pandemic, ahead of the first international political summit on AIDS here.

Speaking after a session devoted entirely to the question of the search for an AIDS vaccine, he said a "general vaccination programme" would target initially young girls and pregnant women in developing countries.

"We have identified high risk groups comprising some 350 million people in Africa, Asia and Latin America who would initially be subject to the programme."

"The aim would be to vaccinate young girls before they become sexually active, say at the age of 10 or 12, in a schools vaccination programme similar to that for measles or polio."

He said the scale of the programme would depend on the results of vaccination tests being carried out in countries like Thailand in the new few years. "If the trials give say a 45-50 per cent immunity, then I think we would go ahead," said Prof. Kallings, who is a scientific advisor to the Swedish government and formerly worked for the World Health Organisation (WHO).

This was the main reason why a vaccination programme would initially target developing countries where the AIDS incidence is high.

"We would have to have a much higher effectiveness level to make it worthwhile in developed countries like France or the United States," he said.

Some 20 leading AIDS researchers took part in the vaccine discussion, which launched the one-day scientific colloquium on AIDS organised jointly by UNESCO and the World Health Organisation.

One other participant, Professor Myron Essex of the Harvard AIDS Institute pointed out in particular the problem that different vaccines had to be developed for different strains of the HIV virus prevalent in the West and in Asia.

This was causing problems because the majority of the funding available for research was in the West and therefore went into devising an effective vaccine for the most common HIV strain in Europe and America.

The point was taken up by Professor Narth Bharampravarai, an AIDS expert from Thailand, who said that trial in his country could take "many years" to produce results.

"Developing countries need to be meaningful partners in the search for an effective vaccine," he said.

Above all the session was dominated however by optimism that a vaccine can be developed.

"There are difficult hurdles to overcome, it is a daunting task, but that should not prevent us from taking the challenge," said Professor William Paul of the National Institute of Health in Maryland, who chaired the session.

## ANSWERS

### BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

- a - A duck's cry; fraudulent doctor.  
b - To promise; an unhappy condition.  
c - To put seed in soil; a female pig.  
d - Not fresh; a horse's urine.  
e - Cattle; tidy.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

- STETHESCOPE: Used by a doctor so as to hear the sound of the heartbeat.

LACTOMETER: Used for measuring the relative density of milk.

SCALPEL: Used by doctors in operation. (A small delicate knife)

CALORIMETER: Used for measuring the quantities of heat.

SEXTANT: Used for measurement of angular distances between two objects.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

- a - Jump  
b - Abraham Lincoln  
c - Waterloo  
d - Lithium  
e - Assassinated — Lee Harvey Oswald —

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

- It is a corruption of "God be with you."

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

- The words that contain all vowels in their order, are:  
ABSTEMIOUS and FACETIOUS.

Some other words but not in natural order, are:  
AUTHORITATIVE, DISADVANTAGEOUS, EFFICACIOUS, ENCOURAGING, IMPORTUNATE and INSTANTANEOUS.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

### PUZZLES

44. Divide 5½ by the difference between 7½ and 3½.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

2	X	9	÷	6	=	3
X		+		+		
6	X	6	÷	9	=	4
÷		÷		-		
4	X	3	-	7	=	5
=	3	=	5	=	8	

(B)

## WEEKEND CROSSWORD

### THINGS TO DO

By Don Johnson

#### ACROSS

- 1 Very's target
- 2 Greek person
- 3 Deverport
- 4 Home day
- 5 Lay subject to a
- 6 monogram
- 7 Shortest favorite
- 8 Adventure
- 9 event
- 10 Don't let anyone in
- 11 In a difficult spot
- 12 Mature
- 13 Use a bus
- 14 Pie — mode
- 15 Upstairs slopes
- 16 Cavalry sword
- 17 Walk with a
- 18 shuffle
- 19 Side cash
- 20 Kind of snake

#### DOWN

- 1 City abroad
- 2 City, city
- 3 Emerald
- 4 Emerald
- 5 Shrubbery
- 6 Schism
- 7 Autumn Lira
- 8 Self-esteem
- 9 Having a ground
- 10 edge
- 11 Dunkard
- 12 Horse lavate
- 13 Hardwood
- 14 Begone!
- 15 Head of France
- 16 For shame!
- 17 Pop!
- 18 Calf
- 19 Red deer

#### Diagramless 19 x 19

By Harold Counts

#### ACROSS

- 1 Word of grief
- 2 Dairy case term
- 3 Described to
- 4 solace
- 5 Profit
- 6 Content for
- 7 writer plates
- 8 Messenger leader
- 9 Head of France
- 10 Monetary men
- 11 Father
- 12 Everyone
- 13 Sharp bark
- 14 Are large, —
- 15 — the Red
- 16 — the Red
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#### SOLUTIONS OF LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE

By Harold Counts

By Harold Counts

By Harold Counts

By Harold Counts



# D

## giving role nurses in frica

Some families do not know that patients are coming home or indeed that they had AIDS at all. The nurse from Zimbabwe recalls that during her home visits, families often invited her to eat with them. Then, when it was safe, as she has told them, to share food with AIDS sufferers.

AS AIDS usually strikes those in their most productive years, the families' needs are often enormous. When the chief breadwinner becomes too sick to work, nurses might link families with charities or development groups willing to help out with school fees, food and finding alternative sources of income.

For most nurses this is a natural and essential extension of their work. Poverty, they say, has a direct impact on health. A family lacks access to water and proper sanitation, the home is more likely to harbour infection such as TB. If food is scarce, the patient will get weaker.

Home-based care also helps to prevent further spread of HIV. Regular home visits have proved the opportunity to promote safe sex messages to patients, families and friends. AIDS sufferers in the community provide the next generation with direct examples of the consequences of not heeding that message.

## ANSWERS

### OF KNOWLEDGE

1. The correct answer is 'the'.

2. The correct answer is 'the'.

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## Features

### King urges umma to unite

(Continued from page 1)

lection with the sole purpose of pleasing God Almighty. "We will do our duty towards the shrines in the name of the nation until its status has been determined in an acceptable and appropriate manner," said the King.

"In this context I would say that we do not accept any party's sovereignty over the Holy Places except that of God Almighty and we will not at the same time diminish the right of our Palestinian brothers to regain their rights in the city but we would rather back their endeavours and their rights."

Among challenges facing the Muslim nations, the King noted, were backwardness, hunger and regression at a time when the Islamic nations' wealth was being drained and wasted.

"I would like to propose to our conference to work in the coming years to put together an integrated plan that would deal with the nation's most chronic issues with the aim of preserving the nation's dignity and wealth and right," said the King.

He said that the nation faces the challenge of presenting the bright image of Islam to the outside world "by removing all elements that tend to distort Islam which faces a brutal onslaught from its enemies."

The King suggested that the Muslim countries resort to spreading Islamic culture and seek to attain sublime goals in line with the teachings of the Holy Koran.

"As we are advocates of peace, justice and understanding, we cannot accept any form of malice and hatred in all forms that appear in the slightest manner in the massacres committed in Bosnia against the Muslims."

"Another challenge is the conflict going on in Afghanistan where destruction is widespread. We cannot accept this situation to continue. It is unreasonable to see those Muslims who had fought in Afghanistan against foreign domination returning to the Islamic world to wreak

destruction to their own nation in the name of Islam," King Hussein added.

Referring to the killing of innocent people in Egypt in the name of Islam, the King said that such actions cause harm to the image of Islam and aim at bringing about poverty and destruction to Egypt.

"We condemn the killing of the intellectuals and the innocent among whom were nuns and children in their care in Algeria, who have at the time been celebrating their national day anniversary."

Referring to other ills plaguing the Islamic nation, the King mentioned drugs "which kill the soul" and the smuggling of goods.

He said the Islamic nation ought to put an end to all these atrocities with all its might.

In statements to the press before his departure, the King said that the results of the summit were encouraging.

"In my belief, there are no problems that cannot be resolved and especially, I think, those which might be ambiguous to the brethren concerning the question of Jerusalem," King Hussein said.

"Jerusalem is not a problem and was and will never be. We carry out a duty which we have towards our holy Islamic places, and holy places in general, until there comes a time when there is an acceptable solution," he added.

The King noted that Jordan was not competing with the Palestinians over the custodianship of the holy places, stressing that it will support them as it has always until they regain their full rights on their national soil.

He said the attendance of the summit by a large number of Muslim leaders was encouraging and expressed optimism over its results.

"God willing, I will be siding with my brother His Majesty (King Hassan) to support him in any endeavour to bring the summit to success."

### Tal denies charges

(Continued from page 1)

its legality, like an unfamiliar procedure," Mr. Tal said.

Former President of the Court of Cassation, Abdul Karim Muath concurred. "It is nothing but illusions," he said in response to reports that attributed his resignation to the disapproval of the government's interference in judicial affairs.

Mr. Muath said that he resigned due to "ill-health" and that speculation over his resignation was "blown out of all proportion by the press."

But it was the resignation of Judge Na'asan that caused a greater controversy.

The former president of the Higher Judicial Council was quoted as saying that he could not tolerate the situation anymore.

Asked by the Jordan Times about the reason behind his resignation only a month after he took over from Mr. Muath, the judge replied that "all that Shihaan published was accurate, except for my resignation's relevance to the Mu. /trial case."

S. Jan, the weekly tabloid, had attributed Judge Na'asan's resignation to his intolerance of the government's interference in the judiciary and quoted him as saying that "such a precedent will not happen in my time." The judge's resignation, however, was also linked to the Mutha case whereby the tabloid reports that Mr. Na'asan refused Mr. Tal's request to speed up the Mutha case which was referred to the Court of Cassation which at the time was headed by the judge.

Earlier this year, a number of Mutha University students were found guilty by the State Security Court of attempted assassination of His Majesty King Hussein during a planned visit to the university; the defendants filed for an appeal which was automatically referred to the Court of Cassation. Nine months have passed since the appeal was filed and the court has not yet reviewed the case.

The delay in the case's progress prompted parents of the accused to campaign against the government, particularly Mr. Tal, blaming it for the delay.

The parents' repeated appeals to different parties (the government, human rights organisations, Parliament ...) proved futile in speeding up the case.

But both Judge Muath and Judge Na'asan affirmed that the Mutha case was treated like any other case and that the delay was not an abnormal phenomenon especially that "there are tens of cases lined up before the judiciary for consideration."

For his part, the minister stressed that the government does not interfere in the court's schedule saying that "the Court of Cassation utilises its time the way it sees best and performs its duty thoroughly by studying every case efficiently." He added that "nine months is not an abnormal period for a case of this size."

Mr. Tal added the Mutha case to other reasons behind the campaign against the government and the judiciary saying that different parties were exposed by the judiciary and hence the reference to their resignation.

On the charge that it generally takes the judiciary a "painfully long time to hear a case," forcing many people to turn to "reconciliation," Mr. Tal said that many factors contribute to this problem. Acknowledging the limited capacity of the 330-member judiciary to work at record-breaking speed, Mr. Tal said that the Ministry of Justice is now working on developing the judiciary and increasing the number of judges. In addition, the ministry will seek to improve the infrastructure of the system by employing assistants to the judges as well as introducing qualification and training courses in several fields of the judiciary.

As far as the mechanical nature of the judicial system, which is widely criticised by those who are aware of the flexibility and creativity allowed judges in the West, Mr. Tal said that it requires individual efforts on part of the judges concerned to broaden their horizons and seek independent judgement where applicable, but the minister referred to financial and administrative obstacles that prevent members of the judiciary from acquiring interest in "creativity and innovation."

By Susan Watts and Tom Wilkie

Simple tests that reveal the genetic inheritance a child receives from its parents could create "the lepers of the 21st century" — people shunned by society because of their DNA.

Unless proper regulations are introduced to control testing for genetic disease, the new technologies of DNA analysis could do more harm than good. Researchers and, significantly, the support groups for people and families affected by genetic disease are increasingly concerned about the impact of uncontrolled genetic screening.

In December 1993, the Nuffield Council of Bioethics issued a report urging the government to bring in safeguards on genetic screening "to protect individuals and their families against the misuse of confidential information, the risk of social stigma and the possibilities of eugenic abuse." Nothing has been done.

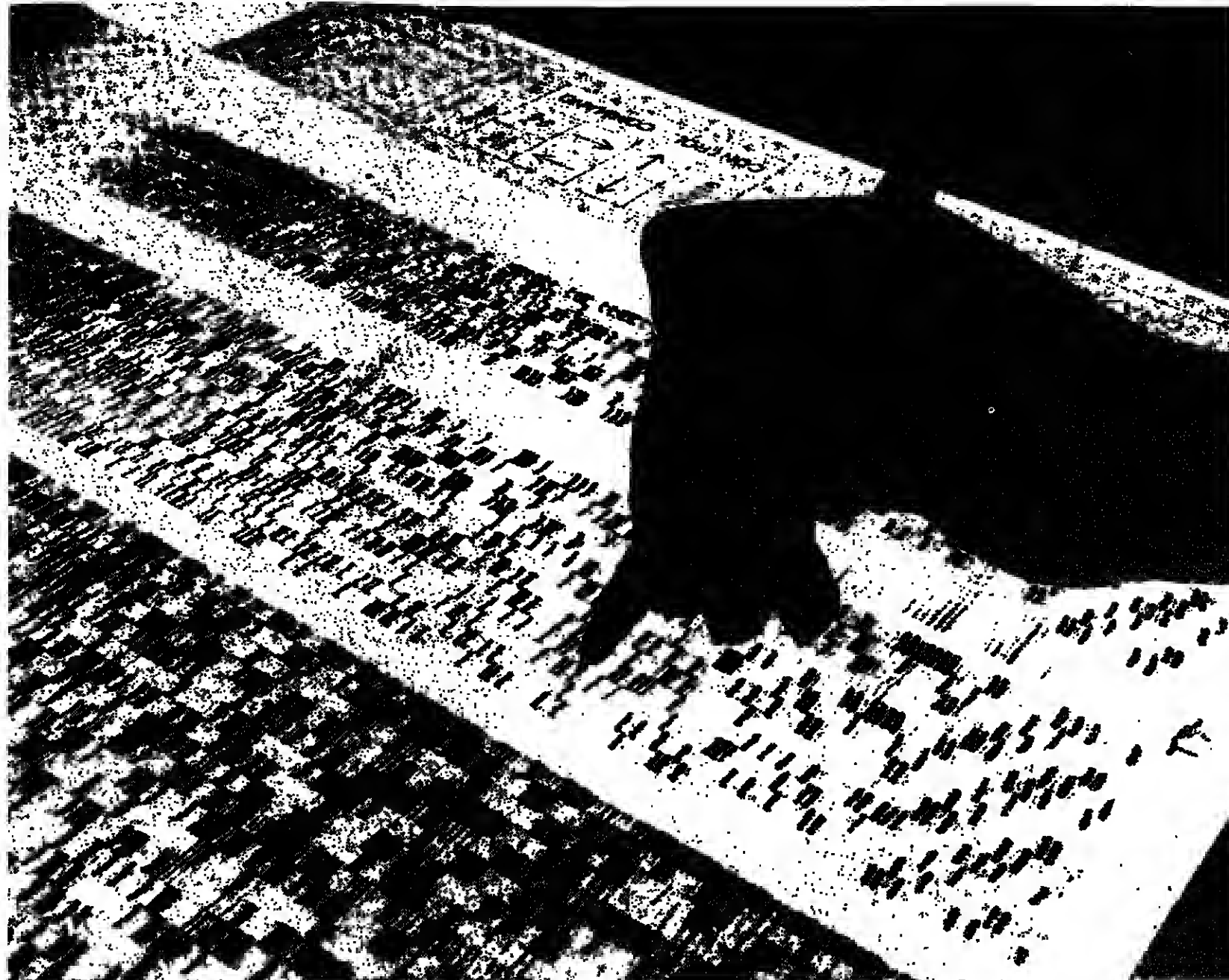
Researchers are discovering a new human gene almost weekly. The genes are responsible for many of the most important inherited diseases have been analysed. In 1986, two American scientists, Tony Monaco and Louis Kunkel, identified the gene responsible for Duchenne muscular dystrophy — the first triumph of the modern techniques of DNA analysis. It was followed three years later by the gene for cystic fibrosis — the commonest single gene defect among northern Europeans. In the past year, the genes for Huntington's disease and a form of inherited breast cancer have been isolated.

Once the gene is found, it is relatively easy to test people to see if they have the gene and run the risk of having children who will suffer from the disease. Often researchers or their employers have patented their discovery, with the aim of making money out of marketing tests to the general population.

Such tests could create a new underclass — the lepers of the 21st century," says Sue Watkin of the Huntington's Disease Association. Mrs. Watkin was addressing a meeting in London last week organised by the Genetic Interest Group (GIG), a charity that brings together all the support groups for people and families affected by genetic disease.

GIG and the support groups welcome the advances being made in understanding inherited disease. To indi-

## Creating a new breed of social outcasts



A print-out of DNA information. It's uncontrolled screening worries people affected by genetic disease

viduals and families affected by genetic conditions, these advances hold hope for treatment where none existed before, but they want to ensure the new knowledge is applied to benefit affected people and families.

Mrs. Watkin worries that employers and insurance companies might require people to undergo genetic testing. She cited the case of a family whose father had died of cancer at the age of 50, before exhibiting the symptoms of progressive degeneration of the brain resulting from the Huntington's disease gene he carried. His children carried on, unaware they had a 50 per cent risk of developing the disease, went on to higher education and fulfilling careers. Would they have done so, she asked, had they known their risk status through a predictive test, say

one imposed by their father's employer?

People with inherited disorders are already being discriminated against, says Michael Turner of the Family Heart Association. "We have an example of someone who wanted to join the army. It rejected him on medical grounds, as did the fire service." Others have to pay high motor insurance premiums, which Dr. Turner feels is particularly unfair because people who are diagnosed and treated with drugs are less of a risk than those who are unaware of their condition. And 92 per cent of those with inherited high levels of blood cholesterol have not been diagnosed, he says.

Screening for genetic diseases can do more harm than good, says Bernadette Modell of University College Hospital, London. "It can dam-

age people's healthy self-image or their image of a healthy baby." All newborn babies have a spot of blood taken from their heels and blotted on to a card soon after birth, Dr. Modell told the conference. This "Guthrie spot" is analysed for the inherited disease PKU as part of a comprehensive, and effective genetic screening programme.

But in Sweden, Dr. Modell says, researchers used the Guthrie spots as part of a screening programme for alpha-1 anti-trypsin deficiency, which carries with it a susceptibility to lung disease. This is not strictly a genetic disease, but children who have inherited the genes are very vulnerable to environmental pollutants. In the Swedish programme, the parents of such children were told to stop smoking.

Then a follow-up study showed the parents were smoking more. They were angry because they had not been consulted, nor their permission sought, for the tests. They had not been properly informed or counselled about the significance of the condition. The parents were left,

Dr. Modell says, "with unresolved anxieties." They had been told that their children had an invisible risk of something later in life for which there was no definitive treatment. "The failure of the programme is a warning to us," she says.

Sources have told the Independent that Britain came close to repeating the Swedish mistakes. Pathologists in one NHS hospital were so entranced by the power of new techniques for amplifying and analysing tiny samples of DNA that they proposed to search through Guthrie spots in their hospital records to identify children who carried the gene for cystic fibrosis. A child who inherits two copies of the damaged gene — one each from their mother and their father — will suffer from the disease. But diagnosing cystic fibrosis does not need DNA analysis. People who inherit one copy of the gene, rather than two, are perfectly healthy and do not have any ill effects. Problems arise only if they should meet and marry another symptomless carrier, in which case they have a one in four chance of conceiving a

child who inherits both damaged copies.

At the last moment, the pathologists were dissuaded from carrying out the tests. One geneticist remarked: "It had not occurred to them what they were going to tell the infants." Nor had they thought through why the children should be tested or what their parents would do with the information.

Alastair Kent, the director of the Genetic Interest Group, welcomes the Select Committee's investigation. "There is a need for an appropriate and effective regulatory regime." But, he stresses it must be open and transparent. He contrasts the secrecy of the British Gene Therapy Advisory Committee with the openness of the Recombinant DNA Advisory Committee, which holds public hearings, and publishes its agenda and decisions.

Mr. Kent feels organisations offering genetic testing, or companies stipulating that someone should undergo a genetic test, must pay for proper counselling, support and follow-up.

The Independent.

## Bulgarian ex-communists prepare for election win

By Philippa Fletcher Reuter

SOFIA — In 1990, as democratic change swept Eastern Europe, Bulgaria brought the world up short by voting its former communist party back into power.

Now, after a brief flirt with the opposition, it appears to be about to do it again.

As the campaign for Sunday's parliamentary election draws to a close, opinion polls give the Bulgarian Socialist Party (BSP), which changed its name from communist in 1990, a clear lead over its main rival, the Union of Democratic Forces (UDF).

The fiercely anti-communist UDF, which alleges the polls are manipulated, is counting on a last-minute rally of support to help it repeat the victory it scored in 1991.

But it is badly split, while the former communists are riding, like their counterparts in Hungary and Poland before them, on a wave of disappointment and nostalgia with painful economic and political change.

The feeling is especially strong among the elderly, who dominate Bulgaria's shrinking population and have suffered badly from a sharp inflationary jump this year when delays in market reform began to take their toll.

Bulgarian pensioners danced and sang in the streets at a rally in a run-down part of Sofia on Saturday morning while socialist candidates handed out bread and wine and toasted an election victory which has yet to be sealed.

The leftist appeal is not restricted to the elderly. "We're in fashion," boasts a pre-election poster for the party's youth wing featuring a

young couple, back to back, staring dreamily into the distance.

One young socialist Ivan Yankov, whose haircut and clothes fit the slogan on the poster, says his socialist leanings are natural in a state where the elite was loyal to the party.

"My family and friends are in the BSP and so are the teachers on my tourism course. They are intelligent and professional," he said.

Most of his fellow-students do not share his views, but that does not bother him. "Most of them will not vote. They supported the UDF but it lied to them," he said.

The socialists have successfully managed to lay the blame for the corruption and lawlessness which have characterised Bulgaria's transition at the door of the UDF, despite the fact that both sides are tarred by allegations of corruption.

Away from Sofia, in a largely rural society where the benefits of capitalism have yet to penetrate, people give other reasons for voting socialist.

In the western town of Trun near the Serbian border, where United Nations sanctions have blocked trade, locals say the former communists have the support of young and old because of their pledge to halve unemployment.

"The only thing that keeps us going at the moment is petrol smuggling," says one man, part of the wave of petty sanctions-busters who punch new holes in the embargo each day.

The socialists say they will seek to boost ties with Serbia, step up pressure on the West to lift sanctions and push for compensation for billions of dollars lost trade.

They have also made the most of a longing for the

strict law and order of communist Bulgaria and popular support for the Orthodox Church despite the fact that it was sidelined and muffled by the old regime.

Leading socialist Nora Ananieva told a recent news conference the church, schools and media should be roped in to bring back the moral values which had been lost amid waves of crime and consumerism.

By stressing their links with Moscow, the socialists have appealed to widespread respect for Russia which dates back long before the Red Army laid the groundwork for communism to replace the Bulgarian monarchy at the end of World War II.

One of the few surviving statues to a Russian tsar stands in front of the parliament building in Sofia, honouring Alexander II for liberating Bulgaria from 500 years of Ottoman rule.

But the socialists have built up huge expectations at a time when western economists believe Bulgaria must bite the bullet of tough reform or face economic disaster.

For the past two years, the party has given its parliamentary backing to a non-party government while at the same time calling for it to ease up on its sluggish market reform programme.

Pressure from the party's grass-roots to take responsibility was part of the reason socialist deputies encouraged the government to step down in September to make way for the election.

At Saturday's rally, Zhan Videnov, the youthful leader of the Socialist Party who is vying for the premiership, had some awkward questions from his supporters. "When we win, will there be socialism?" demanded a man who gave his name as Stanilov.

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## Israelis hope to attract South Korean business

## Rabin calls in Japanese to be economic partners

TOKYO (R) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin Wednesday called on Japan to step up its trade relations with the Jewish state and become a closer economic partner.

"We want and we recommend a change of attitude on the part of the government of Japan and the business community of Japan," Mr. Rabin said at a luncheon meeting with Japanese business leaders.

"Look at us as a partner in business. We ask for nothing more than that," Mr. Rabin said. "European and Japanese companies should no longer fear the Arab boycott."

Japan is sensitive to relations with Arab countries as it depends on the Arab World for 70 per cent of its oil supplies.

Economic data show that trade relations between Israel

and the Far East, in particular Japan, are becoming closer.

Exports to Japan rose 18 per cent in the first nine months of 1994 to \$681 million, according to the Israel Chamber of Commerce. Imports fell 14 per cent to \$690 million, mainly because of the yen's appreciation.

In 1994, Asia was Israel's fastest growing market, with exports jumping 33 per cent in the first nine months, according to the Japanese Finance Ministry. Asia accounts for 12.4 per cent of Israel's exports, up from 8.1 per cent in 1992.

Tokyo has pledged a total of \$200 million towards the start-up costs of Palestinian self-rule, of which roughly half has already been provided.

While expressing his thanks for the financial support for the peace process,

Mr. Rabin said: "We believe that Japan, as one of the giants of the world economy, should be involved even deeper than that."

The Japanese business community seems to agree that there is room to improve economic ties between the two countries.

Shoichiro Toyoda, chairman of the Japan Federation of Economic Organisations, said at the luncheon meeting: "In the economic arena, trade between Japan and Israel is steadily increasing."

"Unfortunately, however, Japanese direct investment in Israel and other Middle Eastern nations is currently not all that active," Mr. Toyoda said.

But with an eye to future business relations between Japan and the Jewish state, the federation sent a mission to Israel in April, 1993. This October, the Japan Association of Corporate Executives

also sent a study mission to Israel.

En route to Seoul, Israeli business leaders said they would urge their South Korean counterparts to set up Middle East headquarters in Israel.

Danny Gillerman, head of Israel's Federation of Chambers of Commerce, told Israeli radio by telephone that he and others on Mr. Rabin's mission hoped to persuade South Koreans to seize on the opportunities created by Middle East peace moves.

"Primarily we would like to transfer or to convey to our partners both in Japan and in Korea the excitement, the bullishness, which we as Israeli business leaders and Israeli businessmen feel as far as what the opportunities are in Israel in the wake of the peace process," Mr. Gillerman said.

"We would like to have

them come to Israel, explore the possibilities, set up operations in Israel and make Israel their regional base for their Middle Eastern and regional activities and we believe this is a very real possibility," he said.

Asked about his delegation's goals in South Korea, Mr. Gillerman said: "We will be looking into signing agreements both with our economic organisations, with our chambers of commerce and with our changing database, encouraging more trade delegations between the two countries."

Israel hopes to deepen economic ties as the remnants of the Arab boycott fall. The Gulf war marked a turning point as Middle East peace-making moved toward. Now the Arab League has lifted its secondary embargo on companies doing business with Israel.

A decade ago, Subaru was

the only Japanese car maker willing to sell cars to Israel. Today, Japanese and Korean cars are grabbing market share from European and U.S. models.

Exports to South Korea totalled \$137 million in 1993, equal to the amount of imports, said Marie-France Yitzhaki, deputy director of the Asia division at Israel's industry and trade ministry.

"The state of economic relations with South Korea has increased quite dramatically over the last few years," Mr. Gillerman said.

"Most of the major South Korean companies are now active in Israel, companies like Samsung, Lucky Goldstar, Daewoo, Daihatsu, Kia and others, and Hyundai, which is a giant South Korean company, and we feel that there is a lot of interest in South Korea in entering into Israel," he added.

## Iran unveils 95/96 budget, sees \$14.3b income from oil exports

TEHRAN (R) — The Iranian government Tuesday unveiled its draft budget for 1995/96, more than a third bigger than the current year's and based on sharply higher oil revenue from lower crude exports.

President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani presented to parliament the nominally balanced 95.3 trillion riyal (\$54.5 billion at the official exchange rate) budget for the Iranian year starting March 21.

The budget ceiling is 36.5 per cent bigger than the current year's approved level, maintaining an upward trend linked by economists to double-digit inflation of the recent years.

In his speech to parliament, Mr. Rafsanjani castigated his critics for accusing the government of mismanaging the economy, saying they magnified deep-rooted economic problems.

"Creating new capacities and continuing construction of the country entails suffering hardships at present. All those interested in the country's future should cooperate... otherwise the opportunity available for building up the country will slip away like so many chances before," he said.

The draft maintains the general shape of the budget in recent years: Oil exports form the bulk of state income, current expenditures outstrip capital outlays and some 60 per cent of the total budget goes to state industries and banks widely seen as inefficient enterprises which burden the public purse.

One difference is that it



Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani

envisages reducing Iran's foreign commitments as required by parliament, while the budgets of the past few years included foreign borrowing.

"As you wanted, we have put the riyal equivalent of \$1.6 billion in the expenditures to reduce our foreign commitments," Mr. Rafsanjani told the deputies.

Parliamentary speaker Ali Akbar Nateq-Nouri estimated last month that Iran's foreign commitments — debt and import contracts signed but yet to be carried out — would reach \$33 billion by March.

The draft for government revenue, excluding the budget for state industries and banks, is set at 41.2 trillion riyals (\$23.5 billion), with oil exports contributing 61 per cent, taxes 19.1 per cent and other sources 19.9 per cent, Mr. Rafsanjani said.

That works out to an oil

revenue of \$14.3 billion.

The current year's budget, drawn up at a time of depressed oil prices, envisaged \$10.15 billion of oil revenue.

Oil Minister Gholamreza Aghazadeh said Iran's oil income was running 20 per cent above target in the first half of the year and hoped it would maintain the pace in the second half.

Mr. Rafsanjani said Iran's oil production capacity had reached 4.2 million barrels per day (b/d) in the current year and would stay at that level through March 1996.

He said Iran exported 2,343,000 b/d of crude in the first half of the current Iranian year and the figure was expected to drop to 2,235,000 b/d next year.

The fall in exports is due to rising domestic consumption while Iran's production is constrained by its 3.6 million b/d quota set by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) through the end of 1995.

Mr. Rafsanjani said keeping a balanced budget was an overriding goal of the draft which also aimed at decentralisation, promoting social justice, supporting domestic production, boosting agriculture and curbing inflation in the long term.

He complained that domestic fuel consumption continued to rise, going up by an estimated 6.2 per cent to 167 million litres (44 million gallons) per day this year.

He said a parliamentary decision to double fuel prices from March 21 was "a good beginning but not enough" to curb the rise.

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## Peanuts



## Andy Capp



## Mutt'n'Jeff

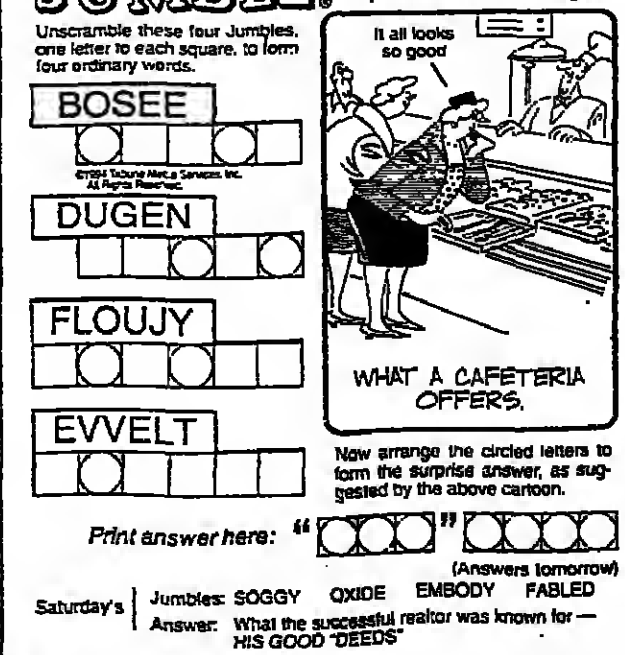


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## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1994

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Even though you feel like it doesn't go flying off on a tangent today that will retard your progress. Today's double moon opposition and square to Mars will pass and everything will get on track.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Persevere at tasks ahead of you and don't permit some outside matter or person to take you away from it or there could be considerable delays.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Make that appointment early for some entertainment which is appealing, but later you may find it is too costly so make different plans.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Be sensible in handling home affairs and plan to do work later, if there is a complaint. You have to show more devotion for your loved ones.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Get busy at communications early since later something crops up which has to be handled quickly. Take care of errands.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Financial matters should come first today. Later be more careful not to over-spend where personal pleasures are concerned.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You are anxious to gain your own aims, but don't neglect matters at home. Make your life more as you want it to be so you can have peace of mind.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Get routine tasks completed and look to a good friend for any financial assistance you may need. Take no risks while driving on the highway.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Go after personal aims, but if some important financial affair comes up, be sure to handle it well. Enjoy the company of an old friend.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Study new interests, and don't let a complaining person bother you. Your intuitions are quite good today for reaching solutions.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You can speed up plans for that trip you want to take, even though a friend interferes with some activity. Be very social tonight.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Talk your affairs over with those who are practical. Later be with your mate and have more happiness together during the evening.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Long talks with partners can clarify the picture. Handle a worldly matter later in the day. Be after to what is happening around you.

Birthstone of December: Turquoise - Zircon

## FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1994

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Find some way of gaining more self control and then make the changes you deem wise as you plan a trip that will resolve a problem. Don't give anyone cause for criticism that involves a community project.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) This is a good day to keep busy at whatever tasks are ahead of you and get much accomplished, no matter where you find yourself today.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Improve your appearance whether at home or in professional hands. Set up appointments for entertainment with good friends during the weekend.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Give more attention to home matters and plan to do some interesting entertaining of the right people during the daytime hours.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) This is a fine day for shopping and running errands which your mate requested. Later you can visit with good friends.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Handle financial affairs well and then set up a more workable budget. Avoid anyone who likes to waste your valuable time on trivial matters.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) This is a good day to get your health and appearance improved and become more dynamic in your actions. During spare hours, visit good friends.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You have many small duties to perform and should get at them early. Come to a better understanding with your closest tie.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Study your relationship with friends and how to improve them, and plan how to return social favours provided to you at this time.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Analyse how well you have handled career duties and decide how to accomplish more success and prosperity in the future.

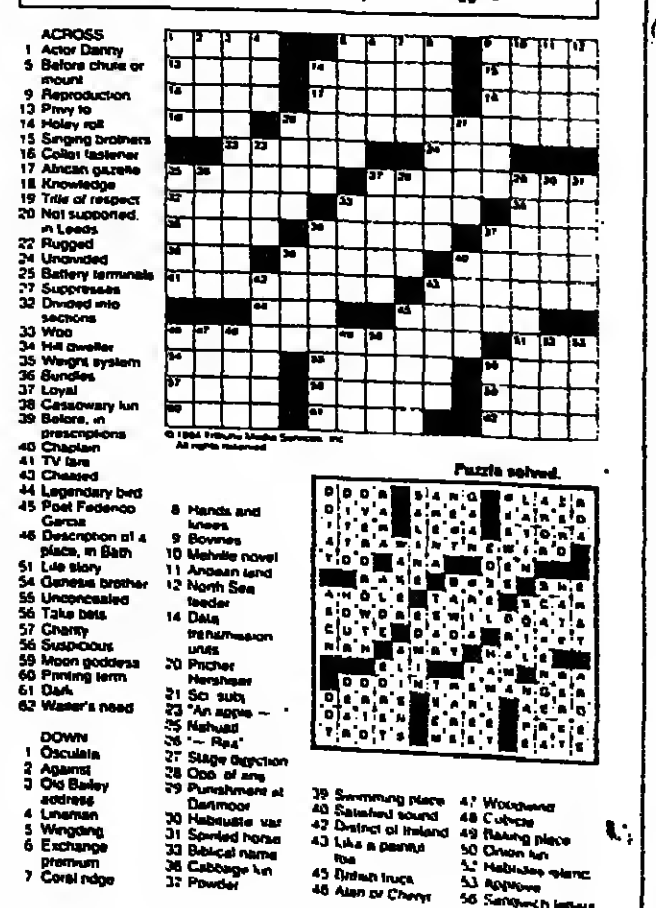
CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Study into more modern methods of operation and plan how to get them into production so that you can get ahead faster and be successful.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You can do much now to improve the situation with your mate and be happier in the days ahead and for romantic harmony to develop.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Study into business and civic affairs during the daytime and see how they can be of greater help to you for the future.

Birthstone of December: Turquoise - Zircon

## THE Daily Crossword by Matthew Higgins





## Female executives' pay in U.S. is down

NEW YORK (R) — The best-paid female executives took a salary dive last year and continue to lag well behind the pay of their male counterparts, according to a survey released Tuesday.

The survey by Working Women magazine said Rens Rowan, vice president of Jones Apparel and the highest paid woman in corporate America, saw her earnings fall to \$4.03 million in 1993 — \$2.7 million less than in 1992.

And her pay was 50 times less than that of the highest earning male executive in America — Walt Disney Co. Chairman Michael Eisner, who took home \$203 million in 1993, the magazine said.

Sherry Lansing, chairwoman of Paramount's Motion Picture Group, came in second at \$3 million a year. Further, 1992's top female earner in the survey, Turi Josefsen, executive vice president of U.S. Surgical Corp., dropped to 15th place. Her compensation fell a stunning 3,000 per cent, to \$852,061 from \$26 million the year before.

Professional and managerial women on the whole fared better than others, with some female nurses and university administrators actually out-earning their male colleagues, the magazine said. Ms. Harris said the drops in women executives' compensation generally could be attributed to changes in tax laws that encourage them to exercise stock options in 1992, and to a downturn in the stocks in 1993.

One bright spot for the top 20 women executives was that their straight salaries rose nine per cent — double the average raise U.S. employees received last year.

Senior editor Diane Harris

## China breaks ground on huge three gorges dam

BEIJING (R) — Premier Li Peng broke the ground Wednesday for the three gorges dam and appealed to foreigners to transfer technology for China's largest and most ambitious engineering project since the Great Wall.

The ground-breaking ceremony for the 185 metre (607 foot) high dam that will cut across the Yangtze river and aims to generate 18.2 million kilowatts of electricity on completion in 2009 follows a 40-year feasibility study and two years of preparatory work.

The success of the dam, the world's biggest water control project, will involve the relocation of more than one million people from thousands of farms, factories and towns who must move to make way for a huge inland lake created in the Yangtze valley by the dam, Mr. Li said.

Speaking as he broke the ground at Sandouping, Mr. Li said the world's largest hydropower station would supply electricity sufficiently to meet the needs of much of central and eastern China, further fuelling an economic boom in the region. Total cost is estimated at 90 billion yuan (\$10.5 billion) — not including interest payments and price increase that could boost the final bill to more than 100 billion yuan (\$12 billion). Total investment will amount to 1.75 per cent of gross national product (GNP) and to 4.29 per cent of total investment in state infrastructure during the 17-year construction period.

## Jordanian authorities seize Shahin's business, personal assets

AMMAN (R) — The assets of the family-run Shahin Business and Investment Group have been ordered seized, a statement distributed by the Amman stock market said.

The value of the assets, seized after weeks of rumours that the group with wide-ranging business interests was deeply in debt, was not disclosed. Traders and bankers believed debts could exceed 40 million Jordanian dinars (\$60 million).

Reuters obtained a copy of the Amman Financial Market statement, dated Nov. 23 and circulated to brokers and listed companies to prevent any sale of shares affected by the court-ordered seizure.

Spokesman for Shahin and the company lawyer were not available for comment. The company has some 1,200 employees, including nearly 1,000 farm labourers.

"Please take note of and adhere to the contents of the above mentioned letter and do not carry out any transactions or deals on any of the shares belonging to the above," the statement said.

The extra three Shahin companies noted in the court order were the Green Valley Company for Manufacturing Vegetable Oil Ltd., the Green Valley Company for

Trade and Supplies and the Arab International Company for Vegetable Oil.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET				
HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - SHEIKHSANI				
TELEPHONE: 660170 / 663170				
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR WEDNESDAY 14/12/1994				
COMPANY'S NAME	NO. OF SHARES TRADED	TRADED VOLUME JD	PREV. CLOSING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE
ARAB BANK	880	162,800	185.000	185.000
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	4,794	21,474	4.500	4.480
BANK OF JORDAN	385	1,500	3.980	3.900
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	1,000	1,623	1.580	1.630
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	237	703	2.980	2.980
JORDAN KOWAT BANK	6,568	19,764	3.010	3.010
JORDAN GULF BANK	8,000	13,404	1.680	1.680
JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK	4,966	18,374	3.690	3.700
BUSINESS BANK	2,500	9,250	3.730	3.700
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	66	322	4.880	4.900
BEIT KHALI SAVINGS/INVESTMENT FOR HOUSING	3,900	12,547	3.300	3.220
AMMAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	12,450	19,018	1.540	1.520
ARAB BANKING CORPORATION/JORDAN	2,314	4,798	1.570	1.460
PHILADELPHIA INVESTMENT BANK	10,593	18,064	1.710	1.700
JORDAN INSURANCE	750	2,550	3.400	3.400
JORDAN FRENCH INSURANCE	1,100	2,781	2.530	2.520
JORDAN ELECTRIC POWER	2,314	4,798	1.570	1.460
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER / NEW	9,750	13,300	1.520	1.520
JORDAN RIVER MINERAL	150	257	1.630	1.710
JORDAN NATIONAL SHIPPING LINES	1,050	3,387	3.250	3.230
NATIONAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES	2,314	4,798	1.570	1.460
REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	1,245	1,741	1.380	1.400
JORDAN GULF REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	4,100	5,249	1.280	1.290
JORDAN INTERNATIONAL TRADING CENTER	100	107	1.070	1.070
MACHINERY EQUIP. REPAIRING & MAINTENANCE	13,250	10,809	0.810	0.800
JORDAN PRESS FOUNDATION / ALBA	530	6,270	11.250	11.400
UNITED MIDDLE EAST & COMMODORE HOTELS	18,100	45,374	2.500	2.510
ARAB INTER. FOR INVESTMENT & EDUCATION	5,100	16,932	3.350	3.320
JORDANIAN EXPATRIATES INVESTMENT HOLDING	4,600	6,256	1.360	1.360
JORDAN TOBACCO & CIGARETTES	297	5,986	20.600	20.500
ATTANDEP CONST. MATERIAL MANUFACTURING	300	384	1.270	1.280
THE JORDAN CEMENT FACTORIES	21,250	61,782	2.900	2.920
JORDAN PHOSPHATE MINES	11,480	30,996	2.740	2.700
JORDAN PAPER & CARDBOARD FACTORIES	1,510	8,288	5.600	5.450
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	5,522	9,101	9.240	9.240
THE INDUSTRIAL COMMERCIAL & AGRICULTURAL	2,670	13,009	4.900	4.860
ARAB PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING	8,308	47,442	5.750	5.700
THE JORDAN PIPES MANUFACTURING	1,200	3,429	2.860	2.860
JORDAN PAPER & CARDBOARD FACTORIES	3,328	1,375	4.180	4.200
RAFIA INDUSTRIES	4,200	11,445	2.740	2.720
BAR AL DAVA DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT	3,550	61,668	17.450	17.400
ARAB INVESTMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE	1,500	1,530	1.030	1.020
ARAB ALUMINIUM INDUSTRY	100	730	7.150	7.100
LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	53,385	50,882	0.930	0.960
ARAB PAPER CONVERTING & TRADING	7,100	9,958	1.410	1.400
INTERMEDIATE PETRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	1,700	4,931	2.900	2.920
JORDAN ROCKWELL INDUSTRIES	20,800	33,047	1.590	1.580
UNIVERSAL CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	3,450	15,905	4.610	4.610
JORDAN INDUSTRIES & MATCH/JIMCO	78,450	68,058	0.870	0.870
NATIONAL CABLE & WIRE MANUFACTURING	1,875	10,288	5.550	5.450
JORDAN SULPHUR-CHEMICALS	4,950	10,135	2.060	2.040
ARAB CENTER FOR PHARM. & CHEMICALS	2,000	5,600	2.820	2.800
KARFAR INVESTMENT	2,600	5,911	1.800	1.800
UNIVERSAL MODERN INDUSTRIES	2,250	18,145	4.250	4.280
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL RESOURCES CO.	2,483	6,668	2.730	2.680
GRAND TOTAL		363,818	922,934	
NO. OF TRADED SHARES IN PARALLEL MARKET		150164		
TRADED VOLUME IN THE PARALLEL MARKET		JD 189514		

### Financial Markets

Jordan Times in co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close	Tokyo Close
	14/12/94	14/12/94
Sterling Pound	1.5600	1.5628**
Deutsche Mark	1.5729	1.5720
Swiss Franc	1.3303	1.3272**
French Franc	5.4180	5.4140**
Japanese Yen	100.29	100.38
European Currency Unit	1.2115	1.2126**

### Exchange Rates

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	5.87	6.18	6.68	7.25
Sterling Pound	6.06	6.25	6.75	7.12
Deutsche Mark	5.37	5.37	5.37	5.75
Swiss Franc	3.81	4.06	4.25	4.56
French Franc	5.56	5.93	6.25	6.75
Japanese Yen	2.18	2.18	2.31	2.50
European Currency Unit	6.00	6.18	6.43	7.00

### Precious Metals

Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	378.15	7.55	Silver	47.77	0.115

### Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.7020	0.7040
Sterling Pound	1.0943	1.0988
Deutsche Mark	0.4460	0.4482
Swiss Franc	0.5273	0.5299
French Franc	0.1295	0.1301
Japanese Yen	0.0088	0.0093
Dutch Guilder	0.3984	0.4004
Swedish Krona	0.0426	0.0430
Italian Lira	0.0000	0.0000
Belgian Franc	0.0000	0.0000

### Other Currencies

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.8460	1.8620
Lebanese Lira	0.041235	0.042580
Saudi Riyal	0.1860	0.1879
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.3030	2.3600
Qatari Riyal	0.1916	0.1929
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2150
Omani Riyal	1.8060	1.8240
UAE Dirham	0.1905	0.1915
Greek Drachma	0.7560	0.7600
Cypriot Pound	1.4010	1.5365

### LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

U.S. \$1.00 costs		
1.3878/88	Canadian dollar	
1.5716/26	Deutschmarks	
1.7598/08	Dutch guilders	
1.3286/96	Swiss francs	
32.33/37	Belgian francs	
5.4170/20	French francs	
1637.6/8.6	Italian lire	
100.35/45	Japanese yen	
7.5600/00	Swedish crowns	
6.8660/10	Norwegian crowns	
6.1635/85	Danish crowns	
\$1.5619/28		
One sterling		
One ounce of gold		\$378.50/379.00

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## Kingdom's basketball season concludes today with Ahli-Orthodox clash

### Hussein, Homentmen drop to 2nd division

By Aileen Bannayan  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Kingdom's basketball season finally comes to an end Thursday evening when the top two teams — Ahli and Al Orthodoxi — clash in the final match of the First Division Championship.

Al Ahli had won the first round encounter 79-70, and need to repeat their win to retain their title. Al Orthodoxi may however prolong the competition if they win their upcoming match to force a title-deciding best-of-three-round.

The top two teams have been contesting the final for as long as fans can remember. Last year Al Ahli beat Al Orthodoxi 75-69 and 70-60 to clinch the title.

Al Orthodoxi had a vir-



Marwan Matouq

tually undisputed reign throughout the eighties before losing the crown to Al Ahli in 1990.

Al Ahli won the title again in 1992 and 1993 and are this year aiming for their third consecutive crown.

Al Orthodoxi last won the title in 1991. They are represented by their younger lineup of players whom most thought would be an easy prey for the titleholder. However, Al Orthodoxi have had a consistent form throughout the competition and if they capitalise over the absence of Nasser Bushnaq from Al Ahli's lineup they might well upset their opponent's plans of celebrations Thursday.

Al Orthodoxi are led by Hilal Barakat, who will team up with Jihad Saliba, Muntaser Abulmayyeh and a younger lineup including Jan Sahlieb and Ziyad Nabulsi. Their head coach is former star Murad Barakat who retired last year after leading his team in an undisputed reign on the country's basketball scene from 1976-1989.

Al Ahli's Ukrainian coach Alexander Sasba has an abundant number of players on the team. However their well-known stars like Samir Murqus, Marwan Ma'touq and Yousef Zaghloul have not demonstrated their usual form, while Bushnaq has missed the team's latest matches and seems to have disagreements with the club's board.



Former champions Al Orthodoxi — Will they be able to force a deciding round

#### Relegation battle unclear

Meanwhile in the battle at the other end of the standings, Al Hussein dropped to the second division for the first time since 1971 after their 68-49 defeat to Al Jalil in Irbid Wednesday.

Jordan Basketball Federation officials had different interpretations of this year's regulations as opinions differed over whether Al Hussein who lost to Al Watani Monday were now relegated or if they should have a deciding match to determine who would accompany Homentmen to the second division.

Al Hussein and Al Watani both beat Homentmen. However Al Hussein won their first round encounter in

Irbid 79-76, while Al Watani won the second round match 84-68.

One interpretation maintained that Al Watani had to defeat Al Hussein with over three points to avoid relegation — which they did. While the other pointed out that both teams were tied and had the same results warranting a deciding match just like the battle for the championship's

crown. If Al Hussein are considered relegated Al Watani will have finished last and maintained fifth place in the division.

Al Jazireh retained third place for a third consecutive year after defeating former third place holders Al Jalil 73-69 and 71-55. Al Jalil thus finished fourth.

#### STANDINGS

	P	W	L	SF	SA	Pts.
Ahli	11	11	—	1156	605	22
Orthodoxi	11	10	1	1075	641	21
Jazireh	12	8	4	928	813	20
Jalil	12	6	6	787	815	18
Watani	12	3	9	815	1083	15
Hussein	12	3	9	759	1045	15
Homentmen	12	—	12	508	1020	10

## France rediscover scoring habit

TRABZON (R) — France rediscovered the scoring habit when they beat Azerbaijan 2-0 Tuesday in a European Championship Group One qualifier.

Jean-Pierre Papin's goal in the 24th minute ended a goalless spell which had lasted almost 300 minutes. Patrick Loko added a second in the 55th minute to underline France's return to the goal standard.

The badly needed victory, in a match played on neutral ground because of security problems in Azerbaijan, boosted French hopes of reaching the 1996 finals after a disappointing start of three 0-0 draws in their previous qualifiers.



French Jean-Pierre Papin (centre) scores the first goal versus Azerbaijan during their European Championship qualifying game. France won 2-0 (AFP photo)

## Sampras, Agassi missing from Davis Cup team

ST. PETERSBURG, Florida (R) — U.S. Davis Cup captain Tom Gullikson tabbed Jim Courier and Todd Martin to play singles against France in the first round next year after the world's top two players — Pete Sampras and Andre Agassi — decided not to participate.

Gullikson announced his choices of 10th-ranked Martin and Courier, currently 13th in the world, in a news conference at the Bayfront Centre Arena in St. Petersburg — site of the February 3-5 tie against France.

The meeting marks the first time the United States and France will face off in Davis Cup since the stunning French victory in the 1991 final in Lyon.

Gullikson said Sampras declined an invitation to play for the United States because the first round takes place just one week after the Australian Open.

"Pete has been doing well in the Grand Slams and I think he felt he really needed a break after the Australian Open," Gullikson said of the Australian Open and Wimbledon champion.

"And you know, playing for your country in Davis Cup is certainly not a relaxing week."

Sampras played in the quarter-final win over the Netherlands and the semi-final tie to Sweden last year.

Agassi, who helped the United States win its last two Davis Cups in 1990 and 1992, did not play in the international tournament last year, preferring to concentrate on recovering from injury and raising his world ranking, which had slipped into the mid-20s.

With his U.S. Open victory as an unseeded player and a strong finish in 1994, Agassi's ranking rocketed to second in the world. But Gullikson said Agassi had decided against playing Davis Cup before the semifinals next year.

Martin, who cracked the top 10 this year with strong showings in the Grand Slam events, went 3-1 in his Davis Cup debut year. He won two matches against India in the first round, but lost the deciding fifth match against Sweden to Magnus Larsson after beating Stefan Ebergi.

Courier dropped out of the top 10 in 1994, going the entire year without winning a title. But he was 4-0 in Davis Cup play. He helped the Un-



Pete Sampras

ited States win the Cup in the 1992 final against Switzerland.

"He kind of lost his mental edge for a while and his desire for playing," Gullikson said of Courier's 1994 slump.

"What he doesn't lack is courage and Jim has the heart and spirit to get back in the top five."

Sampras, Sanchez Vicario named world champions

In London, Pete Sampras of the United States and Arantxa Sanchez Vicario of Spain were named Wednesday as the International Tennis Federation world champions for 1994.

Both won two Grand Slam singles titles during the year — Sampras the Australian Open and Wimbledon and Sanchez Vicario the French and U.S. Opens.

In addition Sampras, 23, won 10 other events and was runner-up at the Grand Slam Cup. Sanchez Vicario, who will be 23 Friday, won an additional six tournaments on the WTA Tour and finished the year as leader of the Virginia Slims bonus points standings, on which the selection of world champion is based.

Sampras, who was also the ITF world champion in 1993, held the number one position on the ITF computer programme which takes in performances in the four Grand Slams, the Davis Cup, the Grand Slam Cup and the ATP tour finals, in addition to all other ATP tour events. It is considered the most accurate guide to a player's overall performance during a calendar year.

The awards will be presented at the Annual World Champions' Dinner during the 1995 French Open in Paris.

## Rally tour caps Jordan autosports season

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — With 1994 nearing its end, the Royal Automobile Club of Jordan (RACJ) holds its final event of the year Friday with the Zanussi Rally Tour capping Jordan's autosports season.

Bashar Bustami has already clinched the 1994 Jordan Drivers' Open Championship with 186 points following spectacular results including his fourth overall finish in the Jordan International Rally which was won by the Arab World's top driver, Mohammad Bin Sulayman.

The rally tour will provide an opportunity for Faris Bustami and Ammar Hijazi to fight it out in the battle for third place after Ahmad Al Daoud moved up to second place, with 144.5 points.

The winner of Friday's event gets 16 points. The second placed team gets 13.5 and the third gets 12 points.

The 300-kilometre-long rally tour will be held on entirely asphalt roads. Split-second timing and navigation will determine the winner.

The event includes two rounds. Competitors will set off at 9:30 a.m. Friday from RACJ headquarters. The second round will begin at 2 p.m. after a short lunch break. Final results will be announced at a prize-giving ceremony Saturday evening.

The rally-tour is the fourth one this year. The season also included five other events: The annual Jordan International rally, two national rallies, a speed test and the Rumman Hill Climb.

Tareq Taba' won the first two rally tours of the season, while Faris Bustami won the third.

RACJ have scheduled seven events for the 1995 season: The Jordan International, two national rallies, the Rumman Hill Climb, a speed test, and only two rally tours.

## Chess players fall prey to Russian thugs

MOSCOW (AP) — The world's top chess players came to Moscow armed with intricate strategies and exceptional intellect. Perhaps they should have brought guns instead.

A rash of violence has rocked the 31st Chess Olympiad in Moscow, as its top-ranking participants fall victim to attacks, muggings, and threats from Russia's notorious criminal element.

The Macedonian team has been hit the hardest since the competition began Dec. 2.

The first attack against the team occurred after several of the players went to a currency exchange office across the street. As the team's 56-year-old captain, Lazar Jancsev, handed \$7,000 to a cashier, five men entered the office, held down the security guards and seized the money.

In the second attack, according to the players, Jancsev was beaten unconscious and robbed of \$2,500 by a group of street urchins outside his hotel.

The president of the Russian Chess Federation, Andrei Makarov, and Russia's long-time World Chess champion Garry Kasparov offered to compensate the Macedonians for their losses.

The U.S. team, whose top players are old Russian-Americans, also has fallen prey to Russian thugs.

Muggers stole \$700 from Alexander Vermeinsky, the top player for the U.S. team. The thieves threatened to kill Vermeinsky if he did not return the next day with \$70,000. Although they did not follow up on it.

Members of other teams said they receive threatening phone calls at all hours.

The violence comes amid increasing media reports about violence against Russian sports stars, especially those earning substantial non-ruble salaries in the west.

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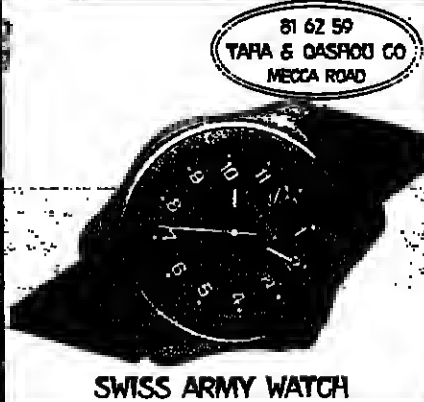
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A 9 7  
8 7 5  
8 3

EAST  
J 8 8 4 3  
A 3  
Q 8 7 4  
A K 8 2

SOUTH  
Q 7 2  
Q 10 8  
K 10 6  
A K 8 2

The bidding:  
South West North East  
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass  
1 NT Pass 2 NT Pass  
3 NT Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Four of ♠

Don't tell partner what he does not need to know. That information might be more useful to declarer, who might turn it against you by making the right choice when faced with competing lines.

South was just a whisker short of a one-trump opening bid, since the two tens gave the hand body. So

when North could invite game. South upgraded the honors to partner's out and was happy to accept.

West led a low spade, taken by the queen in the closed hand. The ace of diamonds was forced out and East returned a spade. West won the ace and returned the eight, his highest spade to show an entry in the higher of the remaining side suits.

Declarer had eight tricks and a ninth could be established in either hearts or clubs. What South could not afford was to lose a trick to West, since that defender had two good spades to cash. After much thought declarer elected to take West's carding at face value and tried the club finesse. All was well.

Given no clue, declarer might have taken the club finesse anyway. But had West disguised the spade distribution by simply following with the five and allowing declarer to win the second lead of the suit.

South might have decided that spades were 4-3 and it was safe to force out the ace of hearts for the ninth trick. Only with all the cards in view would we know better.

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## Jordan Soccer League

### 14th week kicks off today

By Aileen Bannayan  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The top teams might have a good opportunity to shed their slack image when the 14th week of the First Division Soccer Championship kicks off Thursday.

While Al Hussein retained their lead at the top with 22 points, they are followed closely by Al Wihdat with 20. Al Hussein and Al Wihdat will face slowly Shabab Al Hussein and Al Karmel — both almost certain to return to the second division.

In the most heated match, Al Ramtha will face Al Jazireh — the surprise team of the tournament — who were often threatened with relegation in past seasons but have maintained a top-five position this year.

In other matches, titleholders Al Faisali play Al Arabi. Al Jeel meet Kufroum while Al Ahli play Al Qadissieh.

Standings remained unchanged after the 13th week concluded Tuesday. Over 18,000 fans were angered after the two popular teams, Al Faisali and Al Wihdat, were held to a goalless draw in their match at Amman stadium.

Although both teams lost scoring chances, they were content with the draw which enabled them to remain in second and fourth places going into the upcoming week.

Al Hussein could only manage a 1-0 win over Al Qadissieh who must start scoring some wins to secure themselves in the division.

Al Qadissieh had chances to score early against Al Hussein whose goalkeeper Khalid Irshaidat saved his team.

from definite humiliation by blocking at least three goals during the first half.

Mohammad Shweiter scored the match's only goal in the 67th minute to keep Al Hussein atop the 12-team standings.

Al Ramtha proved they had one of the most consistent lineups when they scored their eighth win of the competition by defeating Al Jeel 2-0.

Al Jeel now languish at the bottom of the standings with the worst results and scoring record. However, they gave Al Ramtha a hard time before Farid Al Shananeb scored their first goal in the 71st minute. Veteran Khaled Al Aqqour netted in the second goal seven minutes later.

Newcomers Kufroum scored an important 1-0 win over Shabab Al Hussein who seem destined to be relegated if they continue their current results.

In a match in which both teams concentrated on defence, Islam Diyab's goal in the 44th minute was welcomed by the sparse crowd attending

the match:

Kufroum are now tied with Al Ahli with 13 points but are seventh on goal difference. They have a chance to improve their record further when they meet Al Jeel this week.

Al Arabi clinched a point from Al Jazireh when they were held to a 1-1 draw in their match at Petra stadium.

Both teams settled for the draw after losing abundant scoring chances. Simon Kheir opened scoring for Al Jazireh in the 24th minute, and Ahmad Subb equalised for Al Arabi from a header in the 69th minute.

Al Ahli were held for their fifth draw when their match against lowly Al Karmel ended 1-1. The result further disappointed Al Ahli's fans who had hoped that their team would improve in the second round. They rank now sixth, but are four points behind Al Jazireh.

Khalid Fataftah scored Al Ahli's goal in the 39th minute. Al Karmel scored their previous equaliser by Marwan Najih in the 67th minute.

#### Standings after 13th week

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Hussein	13	10	2	1	35	11	22
Wihdat	13	8	5	—	14	3	20
Ramtha	13	8	4	1	24	5	20
Faisali	13	6	6	1	22	7	18
Jazireh	13	7	3	3	17	9	17
Ahli	13	4	5	4	15	16	13
Kufroum	13	6	1	6	21	23	13
Qadissieh	13	3	4	6	14	20	10
Arabi	13	3	3	7	14	26	9
Shabab Al Hussein	13	1	3	9	16	29	5
Karmel	13	1	3	9	10	31	5
Jeel	13	1	1	11	8	30	3

## Pacers upset; Hawks, Lakers post wins

CLEVELAND (AP) — Mark Price passed to Greg Dreiling for a dunk and drove for a layup at the start of the fourth quarter as the Cleveland Cavaliers ran off the first 8 points of the period and beat the Indiana Pacers 90-83 Tuesday night.

The Pacers, who shot just 27 per cent in the decisive fourth period, had their five-game winning streak snapped. Cleveland has won three in a row.

76ers 105, Heat 90: In Philadelphia, Willie Burton, released earlier this season by the Miami Heat, scored a

career-high 53 points against his old team to lead the Philadelphia 76ers.

Burton's total was the highest in the NBA this season, it also set a spectrum scoring record, surpassing the 52 points scored by Michael Jordan, on Nov. 16, 1988.

Hornets 107, Bucks 101: In Charlotte, North Carolina, Alonzo Mourning scored 20 points to lead the Charlotte Hornets to a victory over the Milwaukee Bucks, who have lost 10 of their last 11 games.

Hawks 85, Timberwolves 83, OT: In Atlanta, Andrew Lang's short hook in the lane

with 1:21 remaining in overtime lifted the Atlanta Hawks over the Minnesota Timberwolves.

Lakers 115, Mavericks 108: In Dallas, Nick Van Exel hit four of eight 3-pointers down the stretch and matched, a career high with 35 points as the Los Angeles Lakers beat the Dallas Mavericks.

Bulls 96, Pistons 78: In Chicago, Scottie Pippen and Toni Kukoc got hot just in time to rescue Chicago from a horrific third quarter, and the Bulls went in to defeat the depleted Detroit Pistons.

## Arsenal draw Auxerre in Cup Winners' Cup

GENEVA (R) — The three Italian clubs left in the UEFA Cup managed to avoid each other in the quarter-final draw Wednesday.

Juventus play Eintracht Frankfurt, Lazio face another German side, Borussia Dortmund, while Parma were paired with Odense, shock conquerors of Real Madrid in the previous round.

The last-eight line-up was completed by Bayer Leverkusen against Nantes.

European Cup Winners' Cup holders Arsenal, hit by allegations of financial irregularities against manager George Graham, were drawn against Auxerre of France.

In other Cup Winners' quarter-final pairings, Sampdoria play Porto, Feyenoord Rotterdam meet Real Zaragoza and Club Brugge take on Chelsea.

Lazio chairman Dino Zoff expressed relief at avoiding another Italian side but said that of all the "foreign" teams left in the UEFA Cup, Borussia Dortmund had to be the toughest.

Dortmund were thrashed 6-1 aggregate by Juventus in the 1993 final.

Arsenal vice-chairman David Dein welcomed the trip back to France, where the London side set themselves up for semifinal victory last season with a 1-1 first leg draw against Paris St. Germain.

Chelsea managing director Colin Hutchinson said: "I am delighted with the draw and we are having better luck this time because with the fixture reversal we are now at home in the second leg."

"We have played Club Brugge before back in 1971, when we won through. We do not anticipate any problems because it will be an all-ticket affair and our fans will be going on package deals."

## British runner banned for 4 years

LONDON (AP) — Former Commonwealth 800 metre champion Diane Modahl Wednesday was found guilty of taking performance-enhancing drugs and banned for four years by the British Athletic Federation.

In a verdict that stunned the British media and top-name athletes supporting Modahl, such as Olympic 100 metre champion Linford Christie, a five-person BAF disciplinary panel announced it had rejected her case that samples taken from her had been improperly handled by a laboratory in Lisbon.

The committee was satisfied unanimously and beyond reasonable doubt that a doping offense has been committed by Mrs. Modahl, panel chairman Dr. Martyn Lucking said in a statement. "She is ineligible to compete in the United Kingdom and abroad for four years from June 16, 1994."

Modahl is the fourth British track athlete to be banned

this year. Shot putter Paul Edwards accepted a four-year ban for steroid abuse and javelin thrower Colin Mackenzie and sprinter Solomon Wariso were suspended for three months for using stimulants.

Modahl's next move may be to take the case to an arbitration hearing under the International Amateur Athletic Federation.

She tested positive for the male hormone testosterone after finishing second at a minor meet in Lisbon June 18.

The positive result, however, wasn't relayed to the BAF until 9½ weeks later. It showed Modahl with a testosterone-epitestosterone ratio of 42-to-1, more than three times the level banned Canadian sprinter Ben Johnson once registered. The normal ratio is 1-to-1.

Modahl was notified just minutes before she was to begin the defence of her Commonwealth title in Victoria, Canada. She was suspended by the BAF pending a hearing and put on the next flight home.

But the notification of the positive result didn't come in time to stop Modahl running — and winning — her event at the European Cup earlier in the summer, a victory that helped Britain's women team qualify for the World Cup for the first time.

The IAAF, noting that Modahl's victory came after her positive test, strongly suggested that Britain pull out of the World Cup at Crystal Palace in September.

The BAF refused, saying Modahl was entitled to a hearing. The team took part, and relations between the two track bodies haven't been the same since.

Modahl's experts argued that her urine sample may have deteriorated because it was not properly refrigerated at the Lisbon laboratory.

"The committee was satisfied that the specimen tested was that of Mrs. Modahl," Lucking said. "There was no suggestion of tampering. The committee considered very carefully the issue of degradation and its possible effects."

It also had been contended in media reports that two medical conditions suffered by the 28-year-old runner, polycystic ovarian syndrome and five-alpha reductase, could also have accounted for the abnormally high testosterone readings.

Lucking said Modahl's medical advisors did not raise this as a defence.

Fellow athletes have portrayed Modahl as a devout Christian who has passed all other drug tests she has ever taken. They say she is so devastated that she is likely never to compete again.

"Diane doesn't know anything about drugs," Christie said before the hearing. "If she is not found innocent, justice has not been done."

## Security plans announced for '96 Olympics

ATLANTA (AP) — Thousands of private guards in uniforms with a symbol of the American west on the sleeve will help provide security for the 1996 Olympics under a multimillion-dollar contract.

Borg-Warner Security will provide security officers, ticket-takers and ushers to stand guard along with personnel from 37 law-enforcement agencies when the centennial games open in July 1996.

"This is part of our efforts to make sure that these are not only the most accessible but also the most secure games in Olympic history," said Billy Payne, president of the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games.

Financial terms of the deal — Borg-Warner gets to call itself "official protective services sponsor of the 1996 Atlanta Olympic Games" — were not disclosed. Similar sponsorships have been fetching about \$10 million for ACOG.

Part of Borg-Warner's worldwide empire is Wells Fargo, the old stagecoach

line of innumerable western movies and the company that provided private security guards for the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles.

The symbol of Wells Fargo, a pony express rider in silhouette, will be drawn into the company's Olympic emblem and worn as a patch on uniform shoulders.

Since the Munich massacre in 1972, the Olympics have joined summit meetings and political conventions as among the most heavily patrolled events in the world.

But Rathburn — who helped run security for the Los Angeles police department at the '84 Games — said organizers recognised that people weren't coming to Atlanta to watch police manoeuvres.

Etiquette suggestions for Atlanta Olympics

Shake hands, but don't point your finger. Speak slowly, but forget about y'all. Watch how you cross your legs. And

never, ever chew gum.

Those are some of the suggestions and warnings being passed around Atlanta this week as more than 200 of the world's top Olympic leaders come to call.

It's training for the 1996 Summer Games, when Atlanta will host the 100th birthday party of the modern Olympics, and organisers want to make sure that residents of this city — which considers itself in the know of international relations — doesn't accidentally shoot itself in the foot.

The pages — one headlined "do's," the other "taboos" — were distributed to volunteers and other members of the public who will be dealing with visitors from as near as Bermuda and as far away as Brunei.

Among the do's:

— "Create a distraction-free environment."

— "Shake hands at greet-

ings. Follow lead if guest is of a royal household or of other higher office."

— "Speak slowly and enunciate your words."

— "Refer to your guest as an 'international visitor,' not a 'foreigner.'"

As for the taboos:

— "Topics of discussion such as politics, sex, religion."

— "The crossing of legs, over the knee, exposing the sole of a shoe to a member of Arabic culture."

— "The usage of jargon, colloquialism, and idiomatic expressions with guests who speak English as a second language."

— "Gum chewing, talking with hands in pockets or arms crossed at the chest, yawning and any further signs of boredom."

— "Pointing with fingers at objects or people. Pointing to be done with an open hand."

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Presents: 'A world famed movie picture worth watching: <b>THE FLINTSTONES</b>		Gary Bussey & Michael Pare — in <b>WARRIORS</b>		<b>CONCORD '1'</b> So I Married An Axe Murderer Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:00, 8:15, 10:30 <b>CONCORD '2'</b> Kim Basinger — in <b>PIANO</b> Shows: 3:15, 5:00 p.m. only.		will soon present: Mousa Hijazin (SUM'AA) In the satirical political comedy: <b>Hi Citizen</b>		Presents <b>Abu Awwad</b> in the social comedy <b>Punctured Bag</b> The theatre is closed on Mondays Tickets are available all day		Presents: <b>The political satire: Al Salam Ya Salam.</b> Daily at 8:30 Saturday & Sunday is the theatre's holiday. in English Sundays December 11, 18, only.	



## Russia issues ultimatum as troops advance on Grozny

MOSCOW (Agencies) — The Russian government said on Wednesday it would use all means to restore order in Chechnya if separatist rebels failed to disarm by Thursday, the official ITAR-TASS news agency said.

"We confirm our intention to... put an end to the bloodshed in the zone of the Chechen conflict," it quoted a government statement as saying. "Those who fail to lay down their arms by December 15 will be responsible for all consequences of their criminal recklessness."

Meanwhile, the Russian troops advancing on the capital of Chechnya met fierce resistance from rebel fighters, as the separatist leader urged a battle in the death and peace talks failed again.

Fighting was heaviest near the village of Pyrovomaiskoye, 15 kilometres northwest of Grozny. Russian troops, which entered Chechnya on Sunday to reimpose Russian rule, shelled the area from a hilltop morning and afternoon, causing most of the 5,700 residents to flee, witnesses said. They said at least two people were killed and eight wounded.

President Dzhokhar Dudayev, who declared his tiny Caucasus republic independent from the Russian Federation in 1991, urged followers to "burn the ground under (the Russians') feet. It is a fight to the death."

"Men, women, children, all Chechen people, we are ready to die," he said in a television address late Tuesday.

Peace talks in the city of Vladikavkaz in southern Russia were called off because of Russia's "unacceptable" proposals, the Chechen chief prosecutor Usman Imaev told AFP.

"All the Russian proposals envisaged Chechnya agreeing that it is part of Russia, which is unacceptable," the Chechen official said.

More talks are possible if the Russians change their mind on this point "but this series of talks is definitely over," he said.

Russian officials in Vladikavkaz told AFP that the negotiations had not ended and that the Chechens just wanted to be able to consult with Gen. Dudayev.

Three Russian columns of hundreds of tanks and thousands of soldiers advanced on Grozny from north, west and east. One of them was 15 kilometres (nine miles) north of Grozny.

Another, about 50 kilometres west of Grozny, was still under orders not to advance after 500 civilians blocked its path Tuesday and the commander refused to open fire.

Five Russian warplanes bombed a suburb of the Chechen capital Grozny Wednesday afternoon in a raid that claimed several lives, said authorities in the breakaway republic. ITAR-TASS news agency said.

The planes then overflew the centre of the city, opening fire with heavy machine-guns, TASS quoted the authorities as saying.

Four other warplanes bombed a prison near the vil-

lage of Dolinsky, north of Grozny, Wednesday morning, while helicopters attacked Chechen army positions near the rebel republic's eastern border with the Russian republic of Dagestan, the same sources said.

A Russian helicopter gunship was shot down by automatic weapons fire west of the capital, killing two crew members, an AFP correspondent at the scene reported. The third man was captured by the Chechens and taken to hospital.

"This whole campaign is senseless," murmured a Russian medical officer, echoing what he claimed was widespread dissatisfaction within the intervention force sent to crush Chechnya's independence drive.

"What is the point of fighting the civilian population? The Chechens are ready for a partisan fight and then we'll be into a second Afghanistan," he added.

The captain, who asked to remain anonymous, said "many officers" in his division, which Wednesday had reached the Chechen town of Dovodinka after entering the rebel republic from the west via neighbouring Ingushetia, shared his fears over the operation.

"Most of us think the whole business is pointless, even those who aren't doctors," he added, showing off the Red Cross badge he wears on his left arm.

"I agree with him, and I know all about Afghanistan — I was there," said a colleague (see related story below).



Chechen soldiers Wednesday run away from a Russian MI-8 military helicopter fearing it might explode after shooting it down near the village of Shasmy-yurt (around 40 kilometres west of Grozny). Two crew members were killed and one wounded but the pilot managed to land it on a road (AFP photo)

## Khamenei does not want supreme spiritual leadership of Shiites

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Bowing to internal opposition, Iran's spiritual leader said Wednesday that he was not a candidate for the supreme leadership of Shiite Muslims in Iran.

In a speech broadcast on Tebran Radio, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said that his present duties did not allow him to assume the position of marja ala, or supreme spiritual leader of the Shiites.

His remarks marked a turnaround in official efforts to promote him as a marja ala after the leader of the sect, Ayatollah Ali Araki, died of old age last month.

Mr. Khamenei said he was willing to be the supreme leader of Shiite Muslims outside Iran. But few Shiites outside Iran regard Mr. Khamenei as a top-ranking cleric and it was unclear how he could achieve the post.

Mr. Khamenei, whose qualifications are those of a middle-ranking cleric, said there were other scholars who could be chosen to lead Iranian Shiites.

"The burden of leadership of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the worldly responsibilities that go with it are like those of several marjas," Mr. Khamenei said in his speech, which was monitored in Cyprus.

"What need is there for

this extra burden to be placed on top of the heavy weight which exalted God has placed on these weak shoulders," he said.

Several officials, including the head of the judiciary, Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi, named Mr. Khamenei as Araki's successor. He said last week that critics of Khamenei could be prosecuted.

The state-run Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) had also referred to Khamenei as a grand ayatollah, the top-ranking cleric from among whom the leader of the world's 100 million Shiites is chosen.

His retreat indicated that opposition to him from within the religious hierarchy may have been insurmountable.

But Mr. Khamenei said that "contrary to the propaganda and designs of the Western mass media, there is no power struggle in Iran on the important subject of the marja."

Traditionally the supreme leaders of the sect have been chosen by the clerical hierarchy, without government interference. They also have steered clear of involvement in politics.

But in trying to name Mr. Khamenei as the supreme head, Tehran sought to fuse

the religious and political authorities in a single person to boost its own influence at home and among Shiites worldwide and to promote its version of militant Islam.

Shiites comprise about 10 per cent of the world's 1 billion Muslims. They are the predominant sect in Iran and Azerbaijan. Small populations also exist throughout the Muslim World.

Marjas have traditionally come from Shiite theological schools in Iran and Iraq.

Some Iranian clerics said during the recent debate that Iran should not allow the promotion of a marja from outside Iran because the overseas ayatollahs generally believed in separation of religion and politics, opposing the cornerstone of Khomeini's 1979 revolution.

Iranian newspapers printed a selection of religious rulings

of Khamenei and a senior cleric was quoted as saying a collection of 3,000 of his rulings would soon be published in Arabic.

In one ruling printed in Resalat newspaper Tuesday, Mr. Khamenei, asked if it was alright to cheat on paying bus fares or filching chocolate bars from shops in foreign countries, replied: "Taking possession of others' property without permission and using government or individuals' property without paying relevant fees is not allowed."

In another, asked about the propriety of a man masturbating in a laboratory to provide a sample for a sperm count, Mr. Khamenei replied: "Masturbation is religiously forbidden... except if masturbation for testing is the only way to determine the cause of the couple's inability to have a child."

## Chechenya conflict Russian affair — envoy

By Khattab Salman  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Russian ambassador to Jordan, Alexander Vladimirovich Saltanov, Tuesday said that the Russian Federation will not allow any party to interfere with the internal affairs of the federation and that the central government of Moscow is the only one to decide how to restore constitutional order in Chechenya.

Mr. Saltanov told the Jordan Times that according to the federal Russian constitution, the republic of Chechenya is an integral part of the Russian Federation, noting that the option of separation adopted by Chechenya would lead to catastrophic consequences for the Chechen people.

He said that a great number of Islamic scholars in Chechenya and other republics of the Russian Federation support the continuity of the federation and oppose separatist attempts.

He added that freedom of religion is guaranteed for all citizens of the federation and that the central government had renovated hundreds of old mosques that were abandoned during the communist era, and had built new worshipping places for Muslims because Moscow, he said, viewed Islam as a very positive creed.

"Followers of other faiths like Christianity and Buddhism can practise the rituals of

their creeds freely in the Russian federation," Mr. Saltanov said.

He refused to draw an analogy between the situation in Chechenya and the four-year old war in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

"The Russian federation will not allow for the conflict in Chechenya to be turned into a religious one like that in Bosnia, because basically it is not," he added.

He noted that the first phase of Moscow's plan to restore order to Chechenya had ended when Russian troops besieged and isolated the fighting pockets in the autonomous region of Chechenya.

News reports say that Russian tanks reached the outskirts of the Chechen capital Grozny after taking control of the oil refineries and other strategic installations on the borders between Russia and Chechenya.

Mr. Saltanov said his country appreciated "Jordan's moderate position" towards the developments in Chechenya which reflects the Jordanian government's keenness on maintaining Russian unity.

He pointed out the meeting His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan had with the Committee of Foreign Affairs at the Lower House of parliament and a meeting the ambassador had with Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Sa'ad Hayel Srour.

## Hizbollah fears Israeli assassins

BEIRUT (R) — The chief of Lebanon's pro-Iranian Hizbollah said on Wednesday the group was on guard against any repeat of a 1992 Israeli helicopter ambush that killed his predecessor.

Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah said his Muslim fighters were on the alert in South Lebanon against the Israelis and their militia allies.

"When the Israelis do not have the possibility of broad attacks, they resort to limited strikes or assassinations like that of Hizbollah chief Sheikh Abbas Al Musawi," Sheikh Nasrallah told a news conference in Beirut.

Israeli helicopters rocketed Sheikh Musawi's convoy in South Lebanon on Feb. 16, 1992, killing him, his wife and baby son and five bodyguards.

Israel's deputy army chief Major-General Matan Vilnai said on Tuesday that Israel would launch strikes against Hizbollah rather than mount a large offensive.

"We do not intend to enter massively into southern Lebanon... our objective is to step up effective attacks and pinpoint hits against the Hizbollah to eliminate their influence," a parliament official quoted Gen. Vilnai as saying.

"Hizbollah (Party of God) is not immune and that applies to every place," outgoing Israeli chief of staff General Ehud Barak told Israeli radio. "The army will act prudently and do what needs to be done."

Sheikh Nasrallah said "any aggression will have a heavy price... (Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak) Rabin knows war has ups and downs. We were able and are still able to answer back twofold."

## Jobs for Palestinians top multilaterals agenda

ANTALYA, Turkey (AFP) — Million-dollar projects to boost living conditions for Palestinian refugees and find them jobs were discussed here Wednesday by delegates from 40 countries and organisations.

Officials at the multilateral Middle East talks, chaired by Canada, said the 250 delegates discussed reports covering job creation, aid for children, public health, social and economic infrastructure and developing human resources.

Some 2.73 million Palestinians are registered with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees (UNRWA). Thirty-four per cent of them live in camps.

The multilateral talks on refugees in this Turkish Mediterranean resort form part of the Middle East peace process launched at the Madrid conference in 1991.

Turkey proposed a 20-million-dollar project to provide jobs and training for 10,500 Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The project would include handicapped people and former detainees, and run over a three-year period starting next June.

Delegates Tuesday discussed the reunification of families and statistical data.

The participants included Israel, Jordan, the Palestine Liberation Organisation, the European Union and the co-sponsors of the peace talks — the United States and Russia.

Israeli delegation chief Joseph Hadass told AFP "socio-economic stability is needed" for peace in the self-rule areas of Gaza and Jericho in the West Bank.

Mr. Hadass said the living conditions of refugees must be improved, but complained of "the Palestinians' mistrust towards Israel."

"Our Palestinian friends should somehow adapt and move from a state of war to the state of peace that needs to be created."

Syria and Lebanon, which have 306,000 and 325,000 Palestinian refugees respectively, have boycotted the meeting.

## Qatar to attend GCC preparatory meeting

DUBAI (R) — Qatar, which stayed away from a Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) meeting last month because of a border dispute with Saudi Arabia, Wednesday decided to attend preparatory talks for next week's summit of GCC leaders.

The Qatar News Agency (QNA) said the cabinet agreed to send a delegation headed by Foreign Minister Sheikh Hamad Bin Jassim Bin Jabr Al Thani to a foreign ministers meeting in Bahrain Dec. 17 to prepare for the GCC summit Dec. 19.

Sheikh Hamad was quoted as saying this month that Qatar's interior minister had boycotted a GCC meeting in

November because Qatar had failed to receive adequate responses from Riyadh over at least five reported border incidents.

But it sent an undersecretary to a meeting Dec. 5 of foreign ministers of the GCC, which also includes Kuwait, Oman, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates.

The row between the two Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) members raised fears of a repetition of events before the GCC's annual summit in 1992 when Qatar boycotted meetings and then threatened to boycott the summit itself over the border tensions.

## Libya bans Palestinians from entry: PLO official

CAIRO (R) — Libya, challenging PLO leader Yasser Arafat, has blocked Palestinians returning from visits to Gaza, leaving 23 families stranded on the Egyptian border, a PLO official said on Wednesday.

Zohi Al Kudra, the Palestinian ambassador in Cairo, denied reports circulated by the Hamas group that as a result two Palestinian children had died on the Egyptian-Libya border.

But he said dozens of Palestinians who left Libya last month to visit relatives in Gaza were refused re-entry at the Sallom border crossing on grounds their residence permits had expired.

He said the Libyan action was apparently a political move by Tripoli against Mr. Arafat to force him to let Palestinians enter the self-rule area of Gaza, even though Mr. Arafat needs Israeli permission for Palestinians there.

"We ask: 'What is the justification for such a behaviour especially... (since) Libya has repeatedly announced that its borders are open to all Arabs?'" Mr. Kudra told Reuters.

He said the 23 families had been stranded in bad weather and in humiliating conditions

and that the Palestinian embassy in Cairo had supplied them with food and blankets. The Palestinians could not go back to Gaza because they were there as visitors.

He denied, however, a report circulated in Damascus on Tuesday by Hamas that two children of the barred families had died.

He said official sources in Egypt informed the Palestinian embassy last week Libya had banned entry of all Palestinians who visited Gaza — even those who have entry visas, residences and businesses in Libya.

Mr. Kudra said negotiations were underway between the PLO and Libya to resolve the issue. He added that on Tuesday Tripoli allowed eight people to cross and was hoping the rest would be allowed to enter soon.

Libya and several radical Palestinian groups strongly oppose the PLO-Israeli peace deal which gave Palestinians limited self-rule in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho.

## Hamas celebrates 7th birthday

GAZA (AFP) — Hundreds of Gaza students marked the seventh anniversary of the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas on Wednesday as Israel lamented having encouraged the creation of the hardline fundamentalist group.

"Hamas forever," some 400 students chanted at one Gaza City school where an Israeli flag was unfurled with a dagger through the middle. Teenagers acted out the October kidnapping by Hamas of Israeli corporal Nachshon Waksman who died when troops stormed the hostage-takers' West Bank hideout.

"We committed a terrible mistake, particularly the heads of the security services who believed that Hamas was a religious organisation opposed to the PLO," Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin told state radio.

"We thought at the time that Hamas was only interested in religious questions and not in politics. We do not understand the true nature of the organisation," Mr. Beilin said.

Israeli military experts say Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, who was defence minister in December 1987 when the intifada erupted, deliberately promoted Hamas in a bid to weaken the PLO.

And PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat has accused Israel of playing with fire by supporting Hamas in its infancy. The movement was founded on Dec. 14, 1987, a week after the intifada or uprising broke out against Israeli occupation.

Imad Faluji, a leader of the movement, told AFP: "Hamas has succeeded in conveying its message to the Zionist entity that it will continue to be a thorn in the side of this occupation until complete withdrawal from our Palestinian land."

Hamas, which spearheads the armed struggle, calls for the destruction of Israel and creation of an Islamic state over the former mandate of Palestine.

It opposes the peace process and has claimed responsibility for killing most of the 45 Israelis who have been killed by Palestinians since autonomy began in the Gaza Strip last May.

Friction with the autonomy authority led to 13 deaths on Nov. 18 when Gaza police clashed with Islamic militants.

Meanwhile, Israeli police were on red alert after a tip that Hamas was planning an attack in the coming days.

All police leave has been cancelled along the borders with the occupied territories. Police appealed to the public to be vigilant.

Hamas has called a rally in Gaza City on Friday to mark the anniversary.

## COLUMN

### How many AIDS tests did U.K.'s Fergie have?

LONDON (R) — Debate broke out in Britain Tuesday over how many AIDS tests the Duchess of York has had after a Portuguese newspaper quoted her as saying she had taken three. The Lisbon daily, Diario De Noticias, quoted the duchess, nicknamed Fergie after her maiden name Sarah Ferguson, as saying she had undergone three tests for the fatal disease. But friends said she had only had two — one before she became pregnant with her first daughter, Beatrice, and one last year for an insurance policy. Other reports suggested that Sarah, who is separated from Queen Elizabeth's second son Prince Andrew, had the first of three tests before she married into the royal family. Many British hospitals now routinely tests for AIDS in pregnant women and British media quoted sources close to the royal family as saying all potential royal spouses underwent rigorous health screening. AIDS charities welcomed the publicity. "It helps keep HIV [the virus that causes AIDS] in the public eye," said Ruth Parry of the Terence Higgins Trust. The duchess arrived in Portugal Monday for a three-day visit to support the local AIDS charity ABRACO. She met President Mario Soares and visited AIDS victims in hospitals Tuesday. The duchess said she had been inspired to make the trip because the brother of a close friend of hers had caught the incurable disease, which is mainly transmitted by sexual intercourse, blood transfusion or the use of contaminated syringe needles.

### Belgians find fingerless arm to accompany foot

BRUSSELS (AFP) — Police in the east Belgian city of Liege reported the finding of a human left forearm from which the fingers had been amputated five days after municipal street-cleaners discovered a human foot. The severed limb was found among trash cans in front of a house in a district on the other side of the river Meuse from the bus shelter where the foot, wrapped in newspaper, had been deposited. Police say the foot was that of a woman taking a small shoe size. Police scientists are investigating.

### Murder suspects win ban on jokes about them

LONDON (R) — A couple accused of murdering 12 young women between them in a case that has made front-page headlines in Britain for 10 months have won a battle to stop a comedian from telling jokes about them, lawyers said. Frederick West, 52, and his wife Rosemary, 40, went to England's attorney general in get an order for comedian Billy Connolly to recede a Christmas videotape. Lawyer Leo Gostley said the three-minute segment would prevent the couple from having a fair trial because jurors who saw it could presume they were guilty. Thousands of copies of the video have been withdrawn from circulation and distributors Polygram are retracting the tape. The murders attracted lurid coverage as police dug up the bodies of the 12 murdered women and girls one by one. Most were in the West's home in Gloucester, western England, or in a house they once shared. Among the victims was West's first wife and their 16-year-old daughter and the house was quickly dubbed the "house of horror." The Wests appeared in court briefly Tuesday and were remanded in custody for a committal hearing in February.

### Hawaiian jet returns after smoke fills cabin

HONOLULU (AP) — Smoke caused by a minor mechanical problem filled the cabin during a Hawaiian Airlines flight to Los Angeles, forcing the plane to turn back. Ten of the 275 people on board the DC-10 were taken to a hospital for smoke inhalation after the flight was aborted late Monday. All but one woman with a preexisting health condition were treated and released.

## Power struggle delays naming of Israeli envoy

By David Makovsky  
The Jerusalem Post

AS ISRAEL appears to be dragging its feet on appointing an ambassador to Jordan, it is increasingly clear that the Foreign Ministry is digging in its heels in what it sees as a matter of principle.

Senior Foreign Ministry officials say the deadlock between Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres on the appointment is tied to the Foreign Ministry's determination to end its institutional marginalisation in policy-making towards the Arab World.

"We are tired of the status quo, and believe this time we cannot give in," a senior Foreign Ministry official said.

Another senior ministry official added, "the issue between Rabin and Peres is 'yes, Foreign Ministry' or 'no, Foreign Ministry.' They have not even reached the question of names."

Until recently, with the exception of foreign policy towards Egypt, the Foreign Ministry has been left out of policy-making in relation to Arab states. This area has been dominated by the prime minister's office and the security establishment.

Army Intelligence is charged with gathering information about the Arab World. But according to sources, the Mossad maintains quiet link with those Arab and Muslim countries which do not have diplomatic ties with Israel. For example,

reports have said the Mossad has been maintaining relations with Oman since the mid-1970s.

But the Foreign Ministry has largely been left out of the information loop in Israel's dealings with the Arab World.

The multilateral peace talks on regional cooperation presented the Foreign Ministry with an opportunity to expand its contacts with the Arab World, as Israeli diplomats began travelling to such places as Tunisia and Qatar, and meeting counterparts from the region.

However, the question remains whether the Foreign Ministry's foot in the door will take hold, or whether once again, the Foreign

Ministry will remain "foreign" to the Israeli decision-making process. Therefore, Jordan has become a test case.

Mr. Rabin who kept the Foreign Ministry out during the secret breakthrough negotiations with Jordan between May and July, is said to favour Ephraim Halevy, deputy head of the Mossad. Jordan a senior source insisted, has made clear its view that Mr. Halevy should be the next ambassador. This could not be confirmed.

But the Foreign Ministry believes that if its representative runs the embassy in Amman, this will signal the beginning of the end of its marginal role in policy-making towards much of the Arab World.